



WEDNESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2021

www.muscatdaily.com

Email: muscatdaily@apexmedia.co.om

To subscribe, call toll free no: 80076000



29°C/21°C

HM to monitor government performance directly

An independent unit reporting to His Majesty will be set up to measure the performance of state institutions and ensure their continuous assessment



Accelerate development of government services: HM

Muscat- His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers at its premises in Muscat on Tuesday.

At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan gave thanks and praise to the Almighty Allah for the riches with which He has endowed Oman and its people. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to protect Oman, its citizens and residents, and to perpetuate the bounties of health, fulfillment and tranquility for all.

Following that, His Majesty the Sultan reviewed domestic developments. He underscored the significance of collaboration of efforts in all institutions of the state towards accelerating the development of government services, pursuing implementation of the digital transformation initiatives, forging comprehensive measures to address challenges and utilising available capacities



and resources to keep pace with current and future situations. He also laid emphasis on fostering communication and interaction with society to meet its aspirations.

At the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan referred to the outcome of performance

assessment of government institutions for the year 2020-2021. He took note of the efforts made in all sectors to upgrade performance and provide the best services to keep abreast of developments in the interest of the public. In this context, His Majesty the Sultan said

Directs promotion of government employees eligible since 2011. The promotions take effect from 2022.

Directs capping fuel prices at October 2021 rate as a maximum ceiling.

Orders cancellation of a set of fees imposed on activities of some sectors, and reduction of fees in certain other sectors.

that an independent unit reporting to him personally will be set up to measure the performance of government institutions and ensure their continuous assessment. The unit will also be mandated with proposing mechanisms to upgrade the performance of govern-

ment institutions, gauging service quality and customer satisfaction.

His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to initiate a unit to support decision-making. The unit will report to the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers and will be tasked with upgrading the standard of performance through efficient decision-making.

In pursuance to His Majesty the Sultan's attention to employees of the State's Administrative Apparatus and to motivate them to improve performance in the next stage, His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to promote a segment of government employees under the Civil Service System and other civil systems, namely those eligible for promotion since 2011. The promotion of this segment takes effect from 2022.

In continuation of Royal attention to social and economic aspects and to the

services rendered to citizens, His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to stabilise vehicle fuel prices in accordance with the rates of October 2021 as the maximum ceiling. The government will bear the difference from any excess resulting from oil prices till the end of 2022.

To incentivise the national economy and stimulate the investment climate, His Majesty the Sultan ordered the cancellation of a set of fees imposed on activities of some sectors, and reduction of fees in certain other sectors.

At the conclusion of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan touched on other areas of interest to citizens and residents and gave his Royal directives accordingly.

His Majesty the Sultan wished success in serving the good of "this dear homeland and its loyal people".
ONA

Red Bull Neymar Jr's Five finals on Nov 12

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Sixteen football teams from Muscat and Sohar are competing in the Red Bull Neymar Jr's Five tournament. The event is the largest international tournament for five-a-side football.

The finals will take place in Yenkit on November 12. The winning team will represent Oman in the world finals in Qatar to be held in early 2022. The winner of the tournament will have an opportunity to meet Neymar Jr.

On Monday, participants of the tournament had an interaction with Oman's football legend Ali al Habsi at Oman Club in Al Khuwayr. Offering advice and extending his support, Habsi said, "It is a lovely opportunity to have more local talent in the game."

The format of play in the tour-

namment is fast-paced with matches of ten-minute duration. Each team consists of five players, two reserves and no goal-keeper.

The qualifying rounds in

It is a lovely opportunity to have more local talent in the game

ALI AL HABSI



Oman, held in partnership with Red Bull Mobile and Talabat Oman, were held in October (Muscat) and November (Sohar) with more than 100 and 448 teams, respectively, competing.



(Supplied photo)

FROM OMAN, TO THE WORLD



Made with pride in Oman

Presenting high quality, Oman-made buses from Karwa Motors.

Founded in 2017, Karwa Motors is a joint venture between Mowasalat Qatar, the state-owned transport company of Qatar and Oman Investment Authority, Oman's sovereign wealth fund. As the first homegrown bus manufacturers in Oman, we are commencing operations from a region we truly understand. From this deep knowledge, comes the customisation of our buses to best suit the region, as well as your needs. With innovative solutions, after-sales service and tailor-made designs, we are not just bus manufacturers - we are your transportation partners. Ensuring smooth and comfortable journeys, always.



Together, every mile

in KARWAMOTORS.COM SCHOOL BUS • MID COACH • COACH • CITY BUS



KARWA MOTORS

Omani stall in Expo 2020 promotes SMEs

Our Correspondent
Muscat

A stall in Oman Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai is making a mark for its efforts to promote Omani handicrafts and small-scale industries. Called Metjar Laban, the concept is the brainchild of Nada Bassam, chief executive officer of Taiseer Platform - Omade.

"I have always endeavoured to make Omani products available globally. I started scouting for the right businesses and talents to showcase two years ago," Nada said.

The selection on display has three categories - History, Environment and Culture. Metjar Laban puts the spotlight on SMEs, and handicraft industries of urban and rural women from all around the country.

According to Nada, in the last one year, her team has evaluated



Nada Bassam

over 460 SMEs. "In a span of six months at the expo, we aim to display more than 1,500 products from companies from all corners of country. We also help package the products attractively."

The products on display change every two weeks. However, some items are constant owing to popularity and quality.

"The exposure Metjar Laban gives SMEs will encourage more businesses and investments in the country," Nada said.

RO11mn distributed among 11,000 cyclone-hit families

Muscat - H E Dr Laila Ahmed al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, has announced that a sum of RO11mn has been distributed among 11,000 families that suffered direct impact of the recent tropical condition - cycle Shaheen. The cash came from the cyclone-related emergency relief aid.

The minister made the statement during an interview for the Economic Forum Programme on Radio Sultanate of Oman. She explained that disaster relief aid continues to be disbursed in some wilayats alongside other measures addressing tenancy and inheritance issues.

H E Dr Laila pointed out that her ministry has developed services for society, and acts as an institutional supervisor and active partner in development and empowerment. The ministry's mis-



H E Dr Laila Ahmed al Najjar

sion is to respond to the needs of families and the needy segment, with emphasis on training and troubleshooting through public awareness on domestic and global concerns, she said.

H E Dr Laila added that the ministry seeks to keep pace with the goals of Oman Vision 2040, notably the overall objective of realising welfare for all segments of society.

ONA



(File photo)

Rare winter migratory birds start arriving in Oman

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman has started witnessing a large number of migratory birds arriving from various parts of the world.

The Environment Authority (EA) confirmed that the natural reserves in the sultanate are currently seeing the arrival of migratory birds from different parts of Europe and Asia, marking the beginning of the winter migration season.

'Bird watchers are sighting rare migratory birds. Oman has 70 sites that fall in the winter mi-

gratory flightpath of certain bird species.'

Aziza Saud al Athaibi, head of Wetlands Management Department at EA, said, "Oman's environment, especially the marine environment, is fertile and provides abundant food for these birds. Owing to its unique environmental conditions, the sultanate has 70 stopover sites for migratory birds.

"The birds from East Africa and Central Asia stop in the sultanate on their winter migration, which is one of the largest and most important migratory routes

of birds."

Aziza also informed that the sultanate has enacted a number of laws to preserve wildlife, including signing international and regional agreements to preserve and protect various bird species.

Among the most important stopovers for birds in Oman is Barr al Hikman in Al Wusta. In 2017, a team from Wetlands International found more than half a million birds wintering in Barr al Hikman, and recorded a total of 63 waterbird species at the site in 2017-2019.

Overall, the shorebird density on the intertidal mudflats of Barr al Hikman is among the highest recorded globally, making it one of the most important coastal wetlands in the world.

Oman has more than 20 nature reserves which aim to preserve biological diversity and promote the sultanate in the world of ecotourism.

In this context, EA seeks to conduct studies and provide tourism and entertainment facilities for guests inside nature reserves.

Oman's nature reserves at-

tract a large number of tourists, both domestic and international, even though the country has seen a drastic drop in foreign tourist numbers.

Nature reserves in Oman are a major tourist attraction, offering sightings of rare birds, as well providing camping and diving facilities to enjoy nature.

According to the National Centre for Statistics and Information and EA, 20,566 people visited nature reserves in the sultanate in 2020, compared to 359,225 in 2019 and 305,405 in 2018.

Workshop held to unify efforts to plant 10mn wild trees



(Supplied photo)

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Environment Authority (EA) conducted a two-day workshop at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in its efforts to plant 10mn wild trees that concluded last week.

According to an EA official, the workshop highlighted the importance of the 10mn wild trees project and the economic benefits of wild trees. "Identification of economic empowerment programmes and the use of renewable energy were also discussed at the workshop," he informed.

The workshop aimed to enhance cooperation and unify efforts to create a national coalition of all government, private and civil society agencies to implement the project and achieve its objectives.

"Such efforts help find solutions to the challenges facing the project, create investment opportunities, and prepare for the establishment of a special laboratory for this national initiative," the official said.

The campaign to plant 10mn wild trees, he confirmed, is proceeding well and according to the authority's plan. "The process of cultivating seedlings is going on in various governorates. Nurseries have been expanded and new ones established. These have been provided with seeds from a seed bank established for the purpose."

In January 2020, EA in cooperation with Petroleum Development Oman, launched the campaign to plant 10mn wild trees in the next ten years.

The wild tree species include ghaf, al samar and sidr, for which nurseries are being set up.

New investments, empowerment of SMEs discussed at GCC forum

Muscat - The first edition of the GCC Entrepreneurs Annual Forum (2021) was held on Monday in Muscat. The forum was organised by the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED) in cooperation with the Secretariat General of the GCC states.

Halima Rashid al Zar'ee, chairperson of ASMED, said in a welcome speech that the forum rallied efforts of the GCC states for the empowerment of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to implement decisions of the GCC Economic Cooperation Committee taken at its 57th session held in Muscat in May 2019.

The forum showcased successful entrepreneurship stories from the GCC, said Halima, adding that the gathering was an opportunity to exchange expertise and identify available funding opportunities.

According to Dr Nayef Falah al Hajraf, secretary general of GCC, at the 41st summit - called the



The forum showcased successful entrepreneurship stories from the GCC and was an opportunity to exchange expertise and identify available funding opportunities

HALIMA RASHID AL ZAR'EE

Sultan Qaboos and Sheikh Sabah Summit - held in January 2021 at Al Ula in Saudi Arabia, the council's leaders laid emphasis on supporting SMEs and entrepreneurs due to their significant role in economic growth.

Referring to an International Monetary Fund report issued in October 2020, Hajraf informed that SMEs constitute 90 per cent of business entities and more than 50 per cent of employment worldwide. Considering SMEs

contribute 35 per cent to the GDP and are a vital pillar and basic propeller of economic diversification, he stressed the need to encourage SMEs.

In his address at the forum, Hajraf also spoke about the changes in the economy and financial sector during the COVID-19 pandemic when new opportunities emerged as a result of activation of technology in various areas of the digital economy.

This, he observed, led to acceleration of ebusinesses and the rate of digitisation. The changes also encouraged the emergence of new services that gave rise to new vistas in marketing and funding outlets.

The forum explored the future of entrepreneurship and financing of SMEs, besides investment opportunities for entrepreneurs in the GCC states. Representatives of more than 50 GCC based companies participated in the forum.

ONA

COVID-19 hospitalisation low, vaccination up

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The number of COVID-19 hospitalisations has dropped sharply with nine admissions reported on Tuesday, including three in intensive care units. Daily case count too continues to be low with 14 new cases and zero related deaths recorded on Tuesday.

'With 14 new cases, the total number of positive cases has gone up to 304,389,' the Ministry of Health (MoH) said in a

statement.

The total number of COVID-19 deaths has now reached 4,113. 'With 19 recoveries, the total has gone up to 299,795, taking the recovery rate to 98.5 per cent.'

According to MoH data, currently there are 481 active cases of COVID-19 in the country.

Meanwhile, 3,089,635 people have got one dose of vaccine, accounting for 92 per cent of the target group, and 82 per cent, or 2,733,021 individuals, have been vaccinated with two doses.

FOR SALE

Residential, Commercial Land-with an area of 5000 m², located on the first line of Highway/adjacent to Oman Mall-South Al-Gubrah-Wilayat of Baushar in Square phase2. Building permit (ground+ 4 floors)

92897896, 92822040, 97365922
email :-info@alsakhaya.com

SURF&TURF

THURSDAYS

It's all about Meat and Seafood Live Stations
Taybat Restaurant | 6.30PM to 10.30PM

OMR 18.50++

For reservations, dial +968 79495989or +968 22302351

MARKET WATCH

MSX30	4,033.72
BSE Sensex	60,433.45

FOREX RATES
(RO1 equals)

Indian Rs	192.56
Pakistani Rs	442.61
Bangladeshi Taka	222.70
Philippine Peso	130.31
Sri Lankan Rs	523.36

*Rates as on November 09
Source: xe.com

BRIEFS

McAfee to be sold for more than \$14bn

US cybersecurity firm McAfee announced on Monday it will be sold to a group of investors for more than US\$14bn, just over a year after going public.

The consortium led by Advent International Corporation and Permira Advisers will pay about US\$12bn in cash to acquire all of McAfee's outstanding shares, with the cost rising to more than US\$14bn when the company's debt is added.

The investor group also includes Crosspoint Capital Partners, Canadian pension fund CPP Investments, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC and a subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority sovereign wealth fund.

The sale is the latest episode in the history of the company founded by John McAfee in 1987, the namesake of the antivirus software.

After several years of back-to-back losses, the company seems set to return to profitability this year.

The company's name remains associated with that of its founder John McAfee, who died last June at the age of 75 in a Spanish prison where he was awaiting extradition to the US over tax fraud charges.

2022 outlook stable for GCC on higher oil prices: Moody's

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The outlook for the sovereign creditworthiness for GCC countries is stable over the next 12 to 18 months, due to supportive oil prices and higher hydrocarbon production, Moody's Investors Service said on Tuesday.

Supportive oil prices and higher production than in 2021 will strengthen public finances in 2022, providing governments with greater fiscal capacity to support the economic recovery and diversification efforts, and more time to implement fiscal reforms, the ratings agency said in a report.

'Our outlook for sovereign creditworthiness in 2022 in the GCC is stable overall, reflecting our expectations for the fundamental conditions that will drive sovereign credit over the next 12-18 months, relative to 2021,' Moody's said.

Moody's noted that significantly higher oil prices and recovering economic activity, helped by rapid vaccination roll-outs, supported sovereign credit quality in the GCC region in 2021. It added that government finances will continue to strengthen, although balance-sheets remain weaker than pre-pandemic for many GCC sovereigns.

'Fiscal positions will continue to improve in 2022. Our baseline projections assume that oil prices will average US\$65-US\$70 per barrel in 2022, broadly in line with the average price in 2021 and around 60 per cent higher than



(Muscat Daily)

the average in 2020.'

'We also assume that oil production will gradually rise under the OPEC+ agreement to fully unwind the 2020 cut in crude oil output by September 2022,' Moody's said. This, the ratings agency said, will boost government finances, as the median contribution of hydrocarbon revenue to GCC sovereigns' total revenue is around 70 per cent.

Under Moody's baseline assumptions for 2022, Qatar and the UAE will return to fiscal surpluses, Oman and Saudi Arabia will run small deficits of less than 1 per cent of GDP, while Bahrain's and Kuwait's deficits will narrow modestly, but remain wide.

'Fiscal balances have generally strengthened from pre-pandemic. Compared with 2019, when oil prices were at similar levels to our 2021-22 assumptions, fiscal balances will be

Moody's said Oman's gross borrowing requirements in 2022 will remain lower than 2020 and pre-pandemic levels because of a strengthened fiscal position

stronger in Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE in 2022 because of revenue raising and expenditure rationalisation measures,' the ratings agency said.

Moody's noted that Oman became the fourth GCC country to roll out a value added tax at a rate of 5 per cent in April 2021, and introduced a mandatory government employee retirement programme to reduce the government wage bill. 'The transfer of government spending related to oil and gas production to a newly created state-owned entity [Energy Development Oman] also contributes to the

reduction in the fiscal deficit in Oman, but at the cost of higher borrowing at the broader (non-government) public sector level,' it said.

For Oman, Moody's said that the sultanate's gross borrowing requirements in 2022 will remain lower than 2020 and pre-pandemic levels because of a significantly strengthened fiscal position, although buffers have been gradually declining.

Growth set to accelerate

The ratings agency said that the pick up in economic growth will

also support fiscal positions in Oman and other GCC countries. Moody's expects higher hydrocarbon production to provide a fillip to the ongoing economic rebound in GCC countries in 2022, with growth rates set to accelerate.

'The hydrocarbon sector will grow by 7.4 per cent in 2022, after a 0.5 per cent contraction in 2021, and contribute more than two percentage points to real, inflation-adjusted GDP growth for the region,' Moody's said.

'As for the non-hydrocarbon sector, the easing of coronavirus-related restrictions and the gradual reopening of borders is likely to drive further recovery, with the sector growing by 3.6 per cent in 2022 after expanding by 4 per cent in 2021 and also contributing around two percentage points to real GDP growth,' Moody's said.



CMA warns Oman Fisheries

Muscat - The Capital Market Authority's (CMA) disciplinary committee, constituted under the Capital Market Law, has issued a decision warning Oman Fisheries Company.

The committee's decision obliged Oman Fisheries to provide a plan on rectification actions within 30 days from the date of the decision.

'The decision was issued after it was established that the company's (Oman Fisheries) board of directors committed several violations of Articles 184, 202, 204 and 206 of the Commercial Companies Law that impacted the performance of the company,' the CMA said in a press statement.

The articles, CMA said, provide that the directors or executive management shall not take advantage of the office for obtaining benefits for themselves or for any other person and that the directors and related parties shall not have direct or indirect interest in the transactions or contracts entered into by the company or for the company's benefit except the transactions and contracts concluded in accordance with the rules issued by the competent entities.

Chemicals industry poised for growth

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The chemicals and petrochemicals industry in the Arabian Gulf is poised for growth in 2021-2022, as the regional and global economy is forecast to recover in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak.

According to the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA), the region's chemicals industry is anticipated to see growth across all key indicators including chemical sales revenue, production output and international trade on the back of an increase in regional economic activity, supported by a rapid vaccination rollout and the global economic rebound.

According to the World Bank, GCC economies are expected to return to an aggregate growth of 2.2 per cent in 2021, buoyed by global economic recovery, projected at 5.6 per cent and the revival of global oil demand and international oil prices. Earlier this month, Brent crude rose to its highest levels since October 2018, reaching US\$86.04 per



A file photo of the Annual GPCA Forum 2019 (Supplied Photo)

barrel.

In a press statement, GPCA, which is the voice of the chemicals industry in the Arabian Gulf, said higher oil output combined with an improved oil price outlook are boosting fiscal revenues in the region, as hydrocarbons generate significant revenue for the GCC.

'This, combined with strong economic and manufacturing activity in China, which represents the GCC's largest export market, GPCA forecasts a healthy chemicals and petrochemicals GCC market outlook, which will spill into 2022.'

Nevertheless, supply chain delays and disruptions will likely

persist, leading to an increase in the cost of commodities, including some of the chemical industry's key inputs. With higher oil prices, feedstock prices are expected to remain elevated, and margins to decrease, GPCA said.

To discuss these trends and highlight the chemicals indus-

try's role in a post-pandemic recovery, the Annual GPCA Forum will convene global and regional industry leaders from over 500 companies in 50 countries during December 7-9 at the Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE.

Dr Abdulwahab al Sadoun, secretary general of GPCA, said, 'The chemicals industry in the region is emerging from a period of significant disruption, subdued growth and an unprecedented decrease in consumer demand in a range of end-user sectors, which chemical producers serve. At the same time, the industry demonstrated resilience like never before, as it fulfilled its vital role to serve society's needs and help equip the healthcare industry with the equipment and materials it requires to combat the spread of the virus and distribute the vaccine.'

'The Arabian Gulf region is now entering into a gradual recovery which will require it to maintain resilience and keep production output high in order to cater to end-user markets at home, in Asia and the world,' he added.

Special Discount

22.72% DISCOUNT

NO 64,700 NO 50 ONLY

24.24% DISCOUNT

NO 26,400 NO 20 ONLY

White Tap Dispenser/ Tap Dispenser/ Manual Water Pump/ Cradle with Tap

2 Full Bottles

12 Refill Coupons

Hot & Cold Dispenser

2 Full Bottles

15 Refill Coupons

BUY & WIN 310 PRIZES

Get 1 Raffle Coupon for every RO 20 spent on 5 Gallon Products.

Gold Coins

Gift Vouchers

Oman Oasis Sifr Water Coupons

Register your raffle coupon number at www.omanoasis.com/discount2021 to win.

CALL TOLL-FREE 800 71 222 or GSM: 9275 5522

Special discount valid from 20th August 2021 to 19th November 2021. Conditions apply.

C.R.No: 1365452 MM 2021/534/06

Scan QR Code to Register

oman OASIS

sifr

SODIUM FREE DRINKING WATER

The healthy choice

Call Toll-Free 800 71 222 or GSM 9275 5522

OmanOasis
 OmanOasisOfficial
 OmanOasisWater
 www.omanoasis.com

C.R. No.: 1365452

MSX falls 0.4% as volumes decline

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The benchmark index of the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) on Tuesday dropped 0.4 per cent to close at 4,033.72 points. Trading activity further weakened at the bourse.

Among sectoral indices, Industrial index closed 0.15 per cent up while Financial and Services indices decreased 0.64 per cent and 0.13 per cent, respectively. MSX Sharia index also decreased 0.33 per cent to close at 550.38 points.

Trading activity further decreased on Tuesday as volumes dropped by 12.8 per cent at 8.69mn shares compared with 9.97mn shares traded in the previous trading session. Market turnover declined by more than 37 per cent to RO1.04mn compared with RO1.65mn in the previous

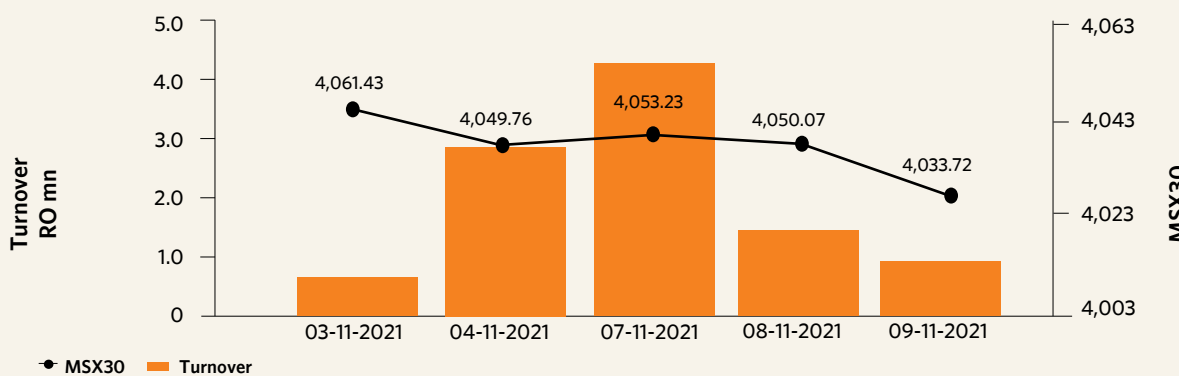


session. Market breadth at the MSX remained negative with six advancing stock to 13 decliners. As many as 22 traded stocks remained flat for the day.

Top gainers for the day were Al Madina Investment (5.26 per cent), Oman Cables Industry (3.06 per cent), Dhofar

Generating (1.32 per cent) and Oman National Engineering and Investment (1.05 per cent). Top losers were National Bank of Oman (-4.64 per cent), Al Madina Takaful (-2.06 per cent), United Finance (-1.75 per cent) and National Aluminium Products (-1.37 per cent).

MSX INDEX AND TURNOVER OF FIVE TRADING DAYS



US rate hike could come by end of 2022

Washington, US - The US economy may be ready for the Federal Reserve to raise its benchmark borrowing rate by the end of next year, the central bank's vice chair Richard Clarida said.

The comments were the clearest signal yet that the Fed is preparing the way for further steps to contain inflation and normalise monetary policy after last week announcing it would begin cutting back its pandemic stimulus.

"While we are clearly a ways away from considering raising interest rates," Clarida said he believes the 'necessary conditions for raising the target range for the federal funds rate will have been met by year-end 2022'.

The Fed slashed the rate to zero in March 2020 to help contain the economic crisis caused by the pandemic, and then began massive monthly bond purchases to keep credit flowing to businesses and households.

After its policy meeting last week, the central bank announced it would start to reduce those bond purchases each month until winding down the programme completely by the middle of next year.

The world's largest economy last year experienced 'not only the deepest recession on record, but also the briefest', Clarida said in a speech to the Brookings Institution, but added that growth in 2021 is expected hit the fastest rate since 1983.

Prices, too, have risen as the economy recovered, caused by high demand, transportation bottlenecks and shortages of both components and workers.



The Fed slashed the rate to zero in March 2020 to help contain the economic crisis caused by the pandemic, and then began massive monthly bond purchases

That dynamic has created concerns that inflation will accelerate and the Fed would have to hike rates more aggressively next year.

While he acknowledged upside risks to inflation and said the disruptions have been 'substantial', Clarida said the 'imbalances are likely to dissipate over time as the labor market and global supply chains eventually adjust and, importantly, do so without putting persistent upward pressure on price inflation and wage gains'.

The latest forecasts from member of the Fed's policy-setting committee in September projected that a key inflation measure is expected to fall to just over 2 per cent next year from 3.7 per cent this year.

The Fed's preferred price index hit a 12-month rate of 4.4

per cent in September, with the 'core' rate - excluding volatile food and energy prices - up 3.6 per cent.

That represents much more than a 'moderate overshoot' of the Fed's inflation target, but most of it 'will, in the end, prove to be transitory', Clarida said.

But 'there is no doubt that it is taking much longer to fully reopen a US\$20tn economy than it did to shut it down'.

The economy also is expected to recover the more than 4mn jobs still missing from before the pandemic, taking unemployment down to 3.8 per cent by the end of 2022 from 4.6 per cent last month. "My expectation today is that the labour market by the end of 2022 will have reached my assessment of maximum employment," he said.

AFP

Rolls-Royce launches nuclear reactor business to help UK's net zero push

London, UK - UK aircraft engine maker Rolls-Royce on Tuesday launched plans to build small low-cost nuclear reactors to help cut the nation's carbon emissions.

The news comes as Britain pushes ahead with large-scale projects, including Hinkley Point C which will be the nation's first new nuclear plant for a generation.

Rolls-Royce said it had created a new Small Modular Reactor (SMR) division after clinching a cash injection of £405mn (US\$547mn).

SMR reactors are far cheaper to build than large-scale nuclear plants because the vast majority of manufacturing and assembly is done in a factory, before transporting to the site.

'Today's announcement is another step towards the delivery of the government's net zero strategy,' Rolls added in a statement.

Environmental groups, however, said the UK should invest in renewable technologies instead.

The British government, currently hosting the UN climate change summit in Glasgow, aims to reach net zero carbon by 2050 with the help of nuclear.

Rolls-Royce, BNF Resources and Exelon Generation will together invest £195mn over three years alongside a £210mn state grant, the group added in a statement.

"The SMR programme is one of the ways that Rolls-Royce is meeting the need to ensure the UK continues to develop innova-



Artist's impression of a Rolls-Royce's Small Modular Reactor (SMR) site

tive ways to tackle the global threat of climate change," said chief executive Warren East.

"With the Rolls-Royce SMR technology, we have developed a clean energy solution."

The London-listed engineering giant hopes the new business could create up to 40,000 jobs by 2050.

Britain's Business and Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng described the news as a 'once in a lifetime opportunity' to 'deploy more low carbon energy... and ensure greater energy independence'.

The development would 'bring clean electricity to people's homes and cut our already-dwindling use of volatile fossil fuels even further', he said.

Pressure group Greenpeace countered that renewable energy was a 'safer bet' to meet climate goals.

"Small modular reactors were supposed to get around the flaws of the larger models but they don't," said Greenpeace UK's chief scientist Doug Parr.

"They are still more expensive than renewable technologies, there's still no solution to dispose of the radioactive waste they leave behind, and no consensus on where they should be located."

Friends of the Earth said renewable resources were 'woefully under-funded' in last month's government spending review. 'Government support and funding should be aimed at

developing the UK's substantial renewable resources, such as offshore wind, tidal and solar, and boosting measures to help householders cut energy waste,' it said.

Britain's nuclear power plants built in the last century have either closed or are coming to the end of their lifespan.

The Hinkley Point scheme in southwest England, the only nuclear project under construction, is due to be completed in 2025.

The UK government wants to maintain the 20 per cent of electricity it generates from nuclear power to help meet its pledge to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by mid-century and tackle climate change.

AFP

GE says conglomerate to split into three firms

New York, US - Multi-national conglomerate General Electric (GE) announced on Tuesday it will split into three separate companies each listed on the stock exchange, specialising in aviation, healthcare and energy.

The storied Boston-based company said the split will leave the independently run businesses better positioned to 'deliver long-term growth and create value' for customers, investors and employees.

In a statement, General Electric said it would spin off GE Healthcare in early 2023, with GE expecting to retain a 19.9 per cent stake.

It would then combine three divisions - GE Renewable Energy, GE Power, and GE Digital - into a single business that will be spun off in early 2024.

The remaining core of the company, which will retain the name General Electric, will focus on aviation.

"Today is a defining moment for GE, and we are ready," said company chairman and chief executive Lawrence Culp, who will



Lawrence Culp

retain a leadership role in the new aviation group.

"By creating three industry-leading, global public companies, each can benefit from greater focus, tailored capital allocation, and strategic flexibility to drive long-term growth and value for customers, investors, and employees," he said.

"The momentum we have built puts us in a position of strength to take this exciting next step in GE's transformation and realise the full potential of each of our businesses."

Investors embraced the news. On Wall Street, GE stock jumped more than 7 per cent to US\$116 in electronic trading ahead of the market's opening bell.

Founded at the end of the 19th century by Thomas Edison, General Electric has long been a flagship of American industry, with a sprawling presence in many sectors, from electricity transmission to finance, media and computers.

Hard hit by the 2008 financial crisis, the company has undergone multiple downsizing and restructuring efforts and incurred massive debt in recent years.

Founded at the end of the 19th century by Thomas Edison, General Electric has long been a flagship of American industry, with a sprawling presence in many sectors, from electricity transmission to finance, media and computers.

Last month, GE reported fairly satisfactory quarterly results, benefiting in particular from strong growth in its aviation revenues.

AFP

FOR THE VERY BEST IN QUALITY FOODS

www.inapaarman.co.za

Distributed by CATERING SOLUTIONS TRAINING LLC

Please Contact +968 22060236/237

National Finance collaborates with Dar Al Atta'a

Dedicated to empower local communities, National Finance recently signed a collaboration agreement with Dar Al Atta'a to support the Green House project, under the 'Tamkeen' programme that supports people with special needs as a sustainable initiative.

The agreement was signed by Tariq Suliman al Farsi, CEO of National Finance and Maryam Issa al Zadjali, chairperson of Dar Al Atta'a. Held under the auspices of H E Sheikh Rashid Ahmed al Shamsi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development, the signing ceremony took place in the office of His Excellency at the ministry, a press release said.

This partnership aims to build nine green houses at various locations of Al Wafa Social Centers to empower people with special needs, by creating job opportunities for them.

Speaking on this collaboration, Tariq al Farsi said, "We are delighted to join hands with Dar Al Atta'a and to support charitable associations in general. At National Finance, we strongly believe that we have responsibilities



not only towards our customers, employees, and shareholders, but also to the communities in which we serve. Hence, we shall establish beneficial partnerships with various entities to add great value to the people of our community and create a bright future for them."

Maryam expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the support provided by National Finance and its ongoing commitment to serve the people through viable programmes.

"The Green Houses Project supports the integration programmes for people with special needs at the Al Wafa Social Center. This is done by enrolling them in the production and marketing of agricultural crops to enhance their engagement with society. Through Tamkeen, Dar Al Atta aspires to deliver sustainable projects aimed at serving the community and promoting social solidarity," said Siham Yousuf al Kharousi, Tamkeen-programme manager.

Alizz Islamic Bank offers National Day schemes

Alizz Islamic Bank recently announced a variety of offers and cash prizes that meet the different needs of customers as part of the nation's 51st National Day celebrations.

Offers include various types of financing such as home finance, auto finance and goods finance. Additionally, new and existing customers of Bushra Prize Savings Account are eligible for cash back rewards, a press release said.

Alizz Islamic Bank's Bushra Prize Savings account is Oman's first Shari'a-compliant prize savings account and reflects the bank's commitment in pioneering innovative Shari'a-compliant products and services that cater to customers' needs. All the products offered by Alizz Islamic Bank are shari'a compliant and approved by the Fatwa and Shari'a Supervisory Board.

Alizz Islamic Bank, has announced



easy home finance, whether for those wishing to buy or build a house, with a profit rate not exceeding 5.1%.

As part of the personal financing offer for goods, Alizz Islamic Bank is also offering an affordable profit rate that does not exceed 5.1%, whether for finances with a financing period of up to 5 years or 60 months for financing with a repayment period of between 6 to 10 years, i.e. from 60

to 120 months.

For those wishing to purchase cars, Alizz Islamic Bank also provided a very competitive profit rate of 5.1% for those transferring their salaries and 6% for those who have not transferred their salaries, with the possibility of benefiting from this offer and obtaining a reduced rate when transferring the salary.

Alizz Islamic Bank also announced a special National Day draw for Bushra Prize Savings Account holders through which 51 lucky customers will win RO500 each. In addition, Alizz Islamic Bank is offering RO51 cash back reward for the first 500 new to bank customers with a deposit of RO5,000 and above.

The bank is offering RO51 cash back reward amount for the first 500 existing Bushra Prize Savings Account customers with an incremental net deposit growth of RO5,000 and above.

'Arise' art exhibition opens at Gallery Sarah today

Under the patronage of His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, 'Arise' art exhibition by the Ambassadors of Omani Art team will be inaugurated at Gallery Sarah on November 10, at 7pm.

Within the framework of Bait Al Zubair Foundation's insight to contribute to the vitality of the artistic cultural scene, Gallery Sarah hosts the official launch of the Ambassadors of Omani Art team. 'Arise' features a group of twenty-one Omani artists from various art schools, a press release said.

The inauguration will include the official reveal of the artistic logo and identity which represents the artistic group's goals and vision. The exhibition is being held simultaneously with the inauguration, showcasing fifty artworks in the fields of Arabic calligraphy, sculpture, drawing,



and painting mix-media. The team seeks to be one of the most prominent artistic gatherings supporting the artistic movement to outline different artistic and cultural horizons, and a positive role in sustainable development by supporting talents and creating the appropriate environment for interaction, with local and international artistic experiences.

The team includes names that shaped the features of the history of fine art in the sultanate in its various stages, such as the artist Rashid Abdul Rahman Al Balushi, winner of the Sultan Qaboos Prize for Culture, Arts, and letters for the Arts branch in 2012, and the artists Khamis, Abdullah and Saud al Hanini, who also won the Sultan Qaboos Prize for Culture, Arts and letters for the Arts Branch for the year 2016.

From the field of Arabic calligraphy and lettering formations, the artists include D Abdul Nasser al Sayegh, Muhammad al Sayegh, Muhammad Mahdi al Lawati, Fahd Yamin, while among the prominent featured artists in the field of sculpture are Khalil al Kalbani and Fayza al Wahaibi, and in the field of oil painting Abdul Majeed bin Hakim al Balushi, Muhammad al Maamari, Mazen al Maamari, Saeed al Ruwaidi, Nada Bint Abdullah al Ruwaishdi, Maryam al Shehhi, Samia bint Salem al Gharibi, Laila bint Muhammad al Najjar, Hajar al Harassi, Zainab al Ajmi, and Laila al Jahuri.

OOC organises The Olympic Day today

Oman Olympic Committee (OOC), represented by Sports and Active Society Committee, has organised The Olympic Day in Musandam Governorate, which kicks off this afternoon (November 10) in the Wilayat of Khasab.

Held under the patronage of H E Sayyid Ibrahim bin Saeed al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Musandam, and in cooperation with the Department of Culture, Sports and Youth in Musandam Governorate, the event includes many sports and activities such as walking, swimming, weightlifting, beach football, volleyball, handball, rowing, and a number of traditional games such as 'tug of war' and 'dome', besides a folklore band.

The event targets all community segments with the aim of promoting health. The public, spreading the culture of walking and increasing the number of its practitioners, making the practice of sport and the value and principles of the Olympic Movement a component of the general culture of the members of society in thought and practice, strengthening the concepts of sport in the community, and making it a priority in their daily life, a press release said.

The event will also include many competitions and recreational games for children in order to develop their social skills, develop the child's motor skills, instill the love of sports in children and the spirit of competition and team play.

Taha bin Sulaiman al Kishry, OOC Secretary-General, said, "We are pleased to organise the Olympic Day in Musandam Governorate, after postponing this event for two consecutive years due to the conditions that the whole world is going through (COVID 19), as this event is among the most important programmes that OOC seeks to implement it annually because of its great importance in embodying the concept of Olympic activity.



Musandam was chosen to hold the event due to its attractive natural elements and out of the approach that the committee's board of directors always seeks to achieve by involving all citizens and residents of Oman in the activities of this day, as the Olympic Day activities were previously organised in Muscat Governorate, Dhofar Governorate, Al Dhahirah Governorate, North Al Batinah Governorate, and Al Dakhliyah Governorate, he said, adding that the focus is on a large number of sports and folk games, in addition to other activities.

tee's board of directors always seeks to achieve by involving all citizens and residents of Oman in the activities of this day, as the Olympic Day activities were previously organised in Muscat Governorate, Dhofar Governorate, Al Dhahirah Governorate, North Al Batinah Governorate, and Al Dakhliyah Governorate, he said, adding that the focus is on a large number of sports and folk games, in addition to other activities.



Al Felaj Jewellery & Watches opens in Mall of Oman

Al Felaj Watches and Jewellery has opened its latest branch in Mall of Oman which contains the finest jewellery and Swiss watches.

Al Felaj offers attractive prices and special offers in addition to a range of valuable gifts on the occasion of the opening, a press release said.

The new branch contains a distinguished collection of gold works with genuine Omani, Bahraini and Arabic designs, in addition to other Italian and international designs. This is in addition to the latest models of Swiss-made watches from international brands. Al Felaj is a unique experience worth visiting.

Ooredoo official FIFA telecom operator in ME

Ooredoo, Qatar's leading telecommunications operator, has announced it is to be Official Middle East & Africa Telecommunications Operator of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021.

Ooredoo's selection to support these major leading events strengthens the company's longstanding commitment to FIFA. Ooredoo was also a National Supporter of the 2019 and 2020 editions of the FIFA Club World Cup in Qatar, a press release said.

Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Bin Nasser al Thani, COO, Ooredoo Qatar, said, "We are beyond proud to be working with FIFA again, this time as a key supporter of the biggest sporting event in the world and in the region."

"All eyes will be on Qatar in 2021 and 2022 as our country is propelled onto the global sporting stage. This is an opportunity for Ooredoo to cement our leadership in innovation and telecommunications; engage a regional audience; promote our country as a major sporting hub; and celebrate football, the most popular sport in the world."

Nick Brown, FIFA's director of commercial revenue, said, "We are delighted that Ooredoo has returned, this time as a Regional Supporter, for these two amazing tournaments in Qatar. With Ooredoo by our side, we are looking forward to hosting memorable events."



Sheikh Nasser al Thani



Nick Brown

Oman Sail launches sailing festival at different venues

Oman Sail has unveiled a nationwide sailing initiative that aims at encouraging the communities across the country to try sailing this winter.

Supported by OQ, the social initiative marks the return of sailing activities post-COVID-19 and complements the series of World and Asian competitions that Oman Sail is organising this quarter of the year, a press release said.

At each venue of the community initiative, there will be opportunities for visitors to try sailing and windsurfing, including Para Sailing through the SailFree programme and visits to local schools. There will also be a beach clean-up operation at each location to highlight the importance of preserving Oman's natural beauty and marine life for generations to come and SME activations in Musandam, Duqm and Salalah where local school children will be invited to attend.

Kicking off at the Silver Jubilee Garden in Sohar, on November 12, and running through January 15, 2022, the festival will be visiting Musandam from November 16-20, Kalbuh in Muscat from November 26-27, Sur from December 3-4, Hawana Salalah from January 6-8, 2022 and Duqm from January 11-15, 2022.

Ali al Sheheimi, Al Mouj Muscat Sailing School Centre manager, said, "Oman has a rich history on the water and this is an excellent opportunity to reignite the nation's passion for sailing, offer a free introduction



to the sport and encourage more people to take up the sport. The Community Sailing event will share the joy of sailing with people across the country, making the sport accessible to everyone while promoting the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and demonstrating the excitement and inspiring people across the country to learn to sail. We will also be visiting schools to inspire children and hosting a beach clean up to make a difference to the local

community." He added, "The Sultanate of Oman is set to become the focal point for global sailing during the winter season as we play host to five international championships, including several prestigious world championships, and seven national events. It is our hope that some of the people introduced to sailing during the Oman Sail Festival go on to proudly fly the Omani flag and represent the country at these events in the fu-

ture." The busy season of events continues with the highly-anticipated Mussanah Race Week from October 30 to November 5 and the Asian 49er, 49er FX & Nacra 17 Championships which starts straight afterwards on November 5. A week later, the 2021 49er, 49er FX & Nacra 17 World Championships head to Mus-sanah, then Oman Sail's own Sailing Arabia - The Tour will be back, starting once again in Mus-

sanah, before heading south to Sur and Muscat. At the same time, the 2021 ICLA Radial World Championships gets underway in Mus-sanah on November 29. The final event of the season is undoubtedly the highest profile, as Oman hosts the 50th edition of the Youth Sailing World Championships for the very first time. Also, a highlight of the World Sailing calendar, the Youth World Championships follows.



ESO and partners plant memorial juniper trees

The Environment Society of Oman (ESO), in collaboration with Oman Botanic Garden (OBG), the Royal Oman Police, the Office of the Wali of Jabal Al Akhdar, and Jabal Al Akhdar Municipality, has planted 30 juniper trees in Jebal Al Akhdar in memory of Dareen Mehdi, a Board Member of ESO who had passed away in July 2020.

The planting was part of a larger event to celebrate her life and legacy, which included a memorial event held on November 9, generously hosted by the newly opened duseitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar, attended by her colleagues, friends and family. H H Sayyida Tania al Said,

ESO president, said, "Dareen was a powerful public figure who dedicated her life to raising environmental awareness and empowering young people. She was vibrant, brave, and a role model to all who knew her. By honouring her in this way, we are not only paying homage to her but carrying on her legacy and fulfilling some of the work that she so passionately sought to achieve." Upon finishing a degree in Biotechnology at Sultan Qaboos University, Dareen had started work as an Environmental Education Specialist at OBG, where she promoted environmental preservation in the local community.

Ahlibank to conduct celebratory draws

In commemoration of Oman's 51st National Day, and as part of its Wafra prize scheme for the month of November, Ahlibank has announced a special draw with cash prizes totaling RO51,000, which will be awarded to 51 lucky account holders of the Bank (RO1000 for each winner).

The special draw reflects the bank's ongoing efforts to promote a culture of savings among the members of the community and throws the spotlight on its celebrations to mark Oman's National Day on November 18, A press release said.

To qualify for this special draw, customers are required to retain an average monthly balance of RO100, the minimum balance should be present in the account on the day of the draw, which is scheduled to be held during the month of November. Proceedings of the draw will be streamed live on the bank's social media accounts.

Muneer al Balushi, AGM - head of Retail Distribution, Ahlibank, said, "The National Day is a special day in our hearts as Omanis, and we are pleased to announce distinct draws for this glorious day. Such draws are reflective of the Bank's keenness to bring more joyous occasions for its customers, giving them chances to win prizes as part of the 51st year of the Renaissance celebrations. On behalf of all members of the Ahlibank family, I extend my highest congratulations and blessings to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, and the Omani people. We pray to the Almighty Allah to return this occasion to Oman and its people for many years ahead, with safety and pride."

He further said, "We are proud of the success of the 2021



Wafra prize scheme, through which the Bank seeks to foster a culture of savings among customers and the general public. In addition to the valuable prizes that Ahlibank offers to its customers through Wafra, the Bank endeavors to expand the winners' base, giving as many customers as possible the opportunities to win. With 51 winners, the National Day draw is truly exemplifies this approach. We believe that this scheme will contribute to encouraging more individuals to participate and help them achieve financial stability.

"Since its inception, Ahlibank has been able to emphasize its strong performance and commitment to providing banking solutions and products that meet the contemporary customer lifestyle. The Bank makes every effort to create a distinct infrastructure that supports the banking sector, as well as adopting

advanced technologies to support current trends."

Ahlibank's various banking products and services are designed to provide an easy and secure banking experience for customers. In line with the same, the 2021 Wafra prize scheme provides a great opportunity to win for account holders with a wide range of draws throughout the year.

'Wafra' (which means 'abundance' in Arabic) Prize Scheme 2021 aims to award total prizes worth over RO2mn to more than 1600 customers across Ahlibank's branches in the sultanate. These are given away across weekly and monthly prizes for the bank's branches, salary transfer prizes, children prizes and youth prizes under 'MyChoice', quarterly special prizes for Al Nukhba, Exclusiv and Imtiyaz customers, 'Salary for Life' quarter prizes, and special draws for new branches.

OITS, Microsoft launch 'MaharaTec'

In their continued mission to spread the ICT culture in the country, Oman Information Technology Society (OITS), in collaboration with Microsoft, launched the 'MaharaTec' initiative to upskill the nation's future leaders and talent, enhancing their capabilities in the field of communications and information technology.

This addition to the industry will empower young professionals to acquire all the necessary knowledge and skills to improve the labour market in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, a press release said.

"The ICT field is witnessing rapid growth, and we are happy to support Oman's 2040 vision, which aims to create diverse economic opportunities for the sector," said Dr. Salim al Ruzaqi, Oman Society for Information Technology chairman. "This partnership with Microsoft will enrich the experience of the



Sheikh Saif

Omani youth and train them in one of the most essential career paths of today, so that they can gain the in-demand expertise on ensuring their lead position in a knowledge-based economy of the sultanate."

The goal of MaharaTec seeks to enhance the confidence of the functional community in educational outcomes in the IT sector. The courses will ready the youth in proficiency as a software developer, data analyst, IT administrator, IT support and helpdesk,



Dr Salim Al Ruzaqi

project manager, digital marketer, financial analyst, graphic designer, customer service and sales.

"MaharaTec is a valuable project that generates opportunities for young talent in the country to hone their skills and gain career-building experiences, which contributes to strengthening the future of the IT industry," said Shaikh Saif Hilal al Hosni, country manager for Microsoft Oman and Bahrain. "I would like to thank OITS for its fruitful part-

nership with Microsoft, as we move forward in promoting innovation and advancements in the country's knowledge-based economy."

Reimagining industries in the new normal, Microsoft remains committed to its core pillars of global educational and skilling future workforce initiatives, as these courses will equip young technology-driven professionals with the appropriate tools and skills to secure and grow the country's ICT environment. This will enable the nation to build a resilient infrastructure, enhancing and catering to new demands of their digital economy.

The MaharaTec programme will continue to operate for a period of one year, while participants are free to choose the courses and dates that are suitable to their learning requirements. OITS will cover exam fees for the first 200 participants who successfully pass.

Madayn event highlights safety and security

The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn organised a discussion session on 'Safety and security requirements and challenges of insurance coverage provision for industrial units' yesterday.

A number of public and private bodies participated in the session, including the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority, Public Authority for Social Insurance, Capital Market Authority, insurance companies, and companies and factories based in Madayn's industrial cities.

The discussion session underlined the safety and security requirements in the industrial units; occupational accidents, injuries and diseases; and the significance of safety and security equipment and solutions in the



workplace.

The session highlighted the reasons of insurance coverage refusal by insurance companies; key insurance coverages and products available for industrial units; challenges faced by insurance companies in covering industrial establishments; legal

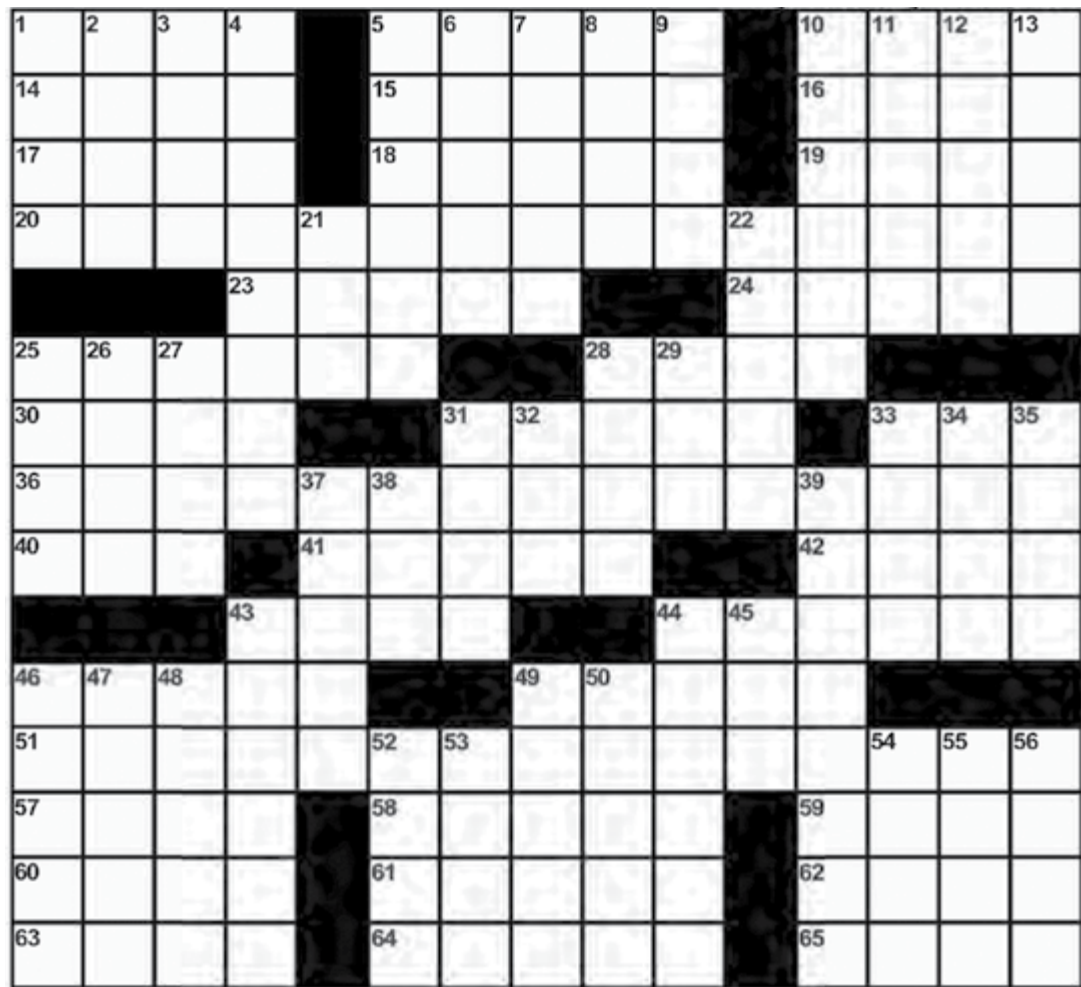
provisions that hinder insurance companies and modification recommendations for the Capital Market Authority; reinsurance agreements; risk assessment procedures and property valuation in the industrial units; requirements of insurance companies regarding security

and safety facilities; incentives and promotional offers that insurance companies can provide to the industrial units that comply with occupational health and safety standards; in addition to insurance coverage related recommendations.

The event also highlighted the best practices and models in the provision of insurance coverage, and adoption of safety and security requirements, as well as underlined suggestions to unify the insurance policy among all insurance companies.

Eng Basim Al Zadjali, Director of Inspection, Control and Occupational Safety at Madayn, explained that this discussion session comes along the lines of the efforts undertaken by Madayn to enhance security.

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1) Battle memento
5) They may be fine-toothed
10) Provide provender for
14) Ear part
15) Reproductive organ
16) Turnpike toll unit
17) Type of code
18) Plastic wrap brand
19) Start of a south-of-theborder cheer
20) Water x 3
23) Yard or garage events
24) Media component
25) Evolution, for one
28) Anonymous people
30) Ethiopian coin
31) Robin Hood's Tuck
33) _ out a living (scrape by)
36) Water x 3
40) Stock holder
41) Temperamental
42) In midvoyage
43) Used a bell
44) "Animal Farm" au-

thor

- 46) Map within a map
49) Single piece of information
51) Water x 3
57) Limerick's land
58) Kayak's relative
59) Put down for the count
60) Three oceans touch it
61) Love, in Lourdes
62) Corp. bigwig
63) Pork, for one
64) Studious stereo-types
65) Game based on world conquest

DOWN

- 1) Rib order
2) Seed site, sometimes
3) Emulating a sleepy-head
4) Suck up again
5) Expensive
6) Irregularly round
7) Crumbly earth deposits
8) Dundee hill
9) Lip-_ (mouth the

words)

- 10) Party handouts
11) Fate of a certain shah
12) Keebler's crew
13) Darlings
21) Lifeboat item
22) Puccini genre
25) Cookbook amt.
26) Long walk
27) Ireland nickname
28) Like auto shop floors
29) Slap cuffs on
31) Former prince?
32) Obviously chafed
33) Last word in a threat
34) Stabilizing part
35) List-lengthening abbr.
37) Fine fiddle
38) He played Opie
39) Congressman, for one
43) Do again
44) Alternatives
45) Bitterly regret
46) Certain construction girder
47) "Let's make some _!"

- 48) Neighbor of Israel
49) Fund contributor
50) Not silently
52) Observatory function

- 53) Hardly heart-pounding
54) Prepare to take off
55) Watchful pair
56) Plymouth landmark

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

Someone close to you might try to manipulate you, but that doesn't mean they'll get away with it or that you'll even let them get close. Once they start their pitch, your best bet might be to excuse yourself, just after you announce that you're wise to their game. That is, of course, provided you don't lose it when you hear the whine in their voice. Try to remain calm. Saying no before they finish is enough to let you know you've won, isn't it?



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Someone with a critical eye could offer you some unsolicited advice today, and you shouldn't be afraid to hear them out. Their reputation for painful honesty should be no excuse. Your feelings don't matter when real knowledge is out there to be learned. Don't sacrifice an education just for the sake of your ego. You're in a solid learning phase, and your mind is ready to take in new information in an objective way.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

One more day of hiding out from the world and you'll be back in the mood for your usual gig: putting even the most accomplished social butterfly to shame. In the meantime, don't allow yourself to be dragged out into the spotlight if you're not ready to go. Rest, relax, and regroup. If anyone deserves some time alone to get those batteries recharged, it's you. And the audience will wait for your next performance.



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

Everyone's had the experience of being infatuated, and everyone's known the mixed feelings it involves. One minute you're ecstatic, the next you're depressed, and one phone call later you're back up there on cloud nine. You're due to experience all those feelings once again, and you'll find them next to impossible to pass up, even if you know the end result may not be a house with a white picket fence.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

For the next 24 hours, each and every syllable you utter will be meaningful, accurate, and to the point, so whoever asks for your opinion will absolutely hear it. Warn them in advance, but don't hold back. You can temper your rhetoric with a touch of tact and manage to tell the truth in such a way that they'll not only take it well, they may actually learn something from it.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

When it comes to the world at large, you've always been able to smile and have them thinking that you're on the same page, whether or not that happens to be true. That's going to be even more the case now, but if you have feelings you really do need to share, don't stifle them for the sake of being nice. You don't have to offend anyone. Just excuse yourself and find a loved one you're sure understands you.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

There's nothing but fire in the air, that and a little bit of intrigue, which makes quite the exciting combination for someone as curious as you. Needless to say, you're going to love every minute of this day, especially if you have a partner in crime in tow, and when have you ever had a problem finding someone who fits that description? Just be sure to keep things calm. As calm as possible, anyway.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You're an expert when it comes to reading people. You know what they're up to before they do just by listening to the tone of their voice and watching their eyes. Those talents will come in handy now, especially if you cross paths with someone who thinks of you as an easy target. You're so far from that right now that it's laughable, but it won't hurt to let them keep thinking along those lines.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

You're feeling benevolent, generous, and extremely charitable toward your fellows. So no matter what anyone needs, you'll be only too happy to do whatever you can to help. That's a rare and wonderful gift that will be much appreciated right about now, because there could be a few folks out there who won't be at all sympathetic to anyone else's needs. Go ahead. Get out there and spread your good feelings around.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Here we go with the "if you loved me, you would" thing. You hate it, and you've tried to make it clear that you're not going to fall for it ever again. But for some reason, every time you hear it, it works. Those words seem to bring back all the old-school guilt you were sure you'd sworn off for good. This time do yourself a favor: As soon as you hear the words, excuse yourself. If they follow you out, tell them you're allergic to guilt.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

You pride yourself on being a master judge of character. At the moment, however, your talents in that department aren't quite fully operational. One minute in the company of that certain someone you've been thinking about nonstop will prove that to you. Better step back and take a deep breath, especially if you've been asked for a favour you know isn't quite on the up and up. There's nothing more memorable than strength.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

If anyone needs a vacation, it's you. You've been working hard nonstop, both physically and emotionally. Now, while you have the chance, it's time to get away. If you have a travel partner to play hooky with, so much the better. If you don't, that shouldn't stop you from going. You can bet that you'll find one there waiting for you when you arrive.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. The first General Elections in India took place in

- a. 1948
b. 1950
c. 1952
d. 1954

2. The branch of science that studies cells is called

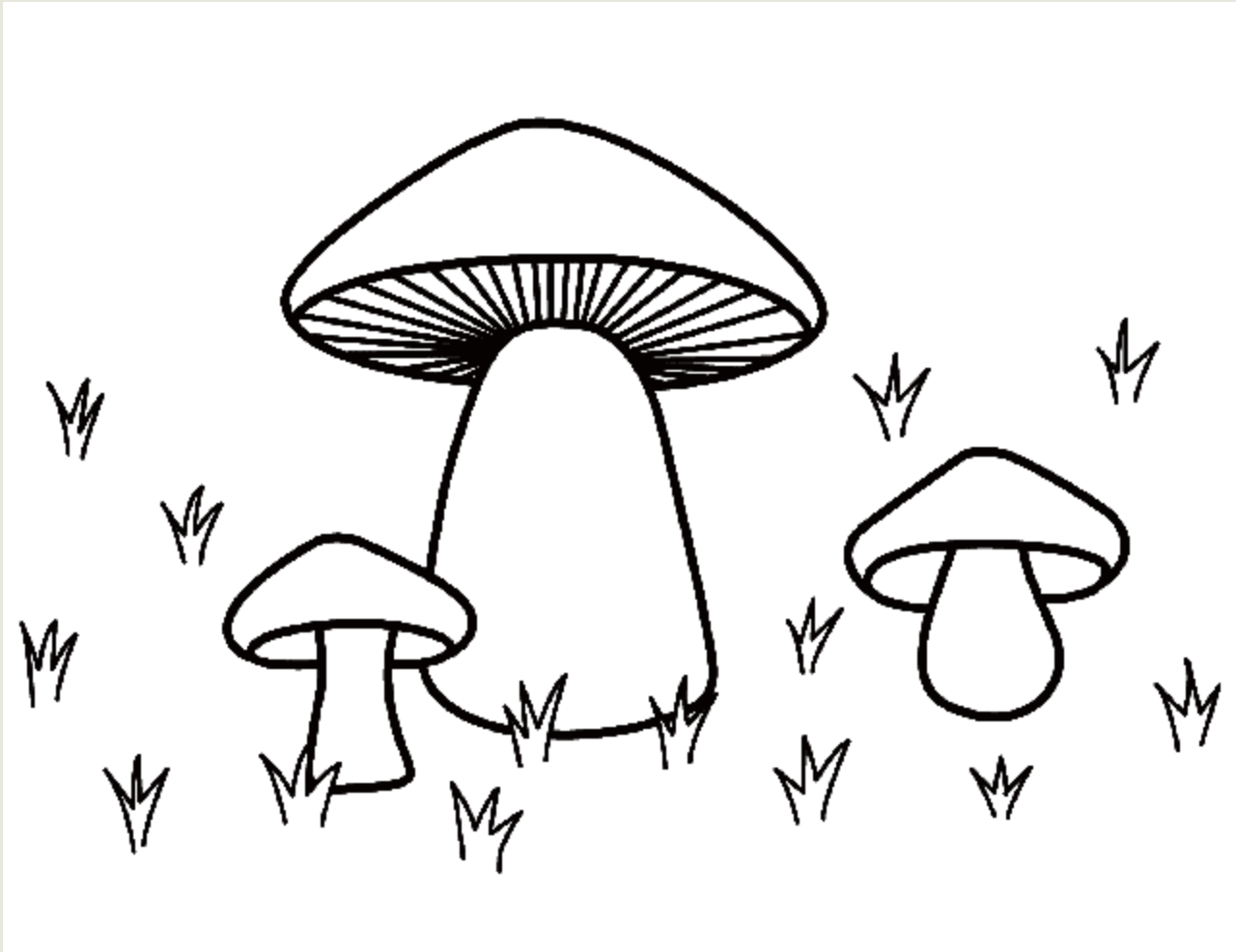
- a. cytology
b. entomology
c. homoplasty
d. hormonology

3. The energy of food is measured in

- a. Kelvin
b. calories
c. bushel
d. None of the above

Answers: 1. c 2. a 3. b

KIDS COLOURING



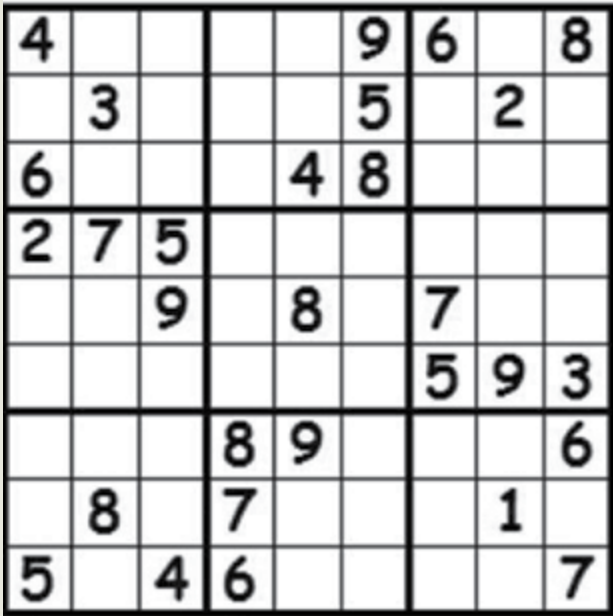
BOGGLER



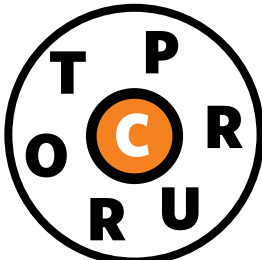
Each game will present you with a matrix filled with letters. The objective is to form words by linking adjacent letters - to the left, right, on top, bottom, or diagonal to each other. The Boggles Classic game uses a 4 x 4 matrix. Words are valued at one point for each letter in excess of two letters. A three letter word is worth one point, a four letter word is worth two points, and so on. Valid words must be at least three letters long.
Solution 20-25 words: Excellent, 15-20 words: Very good, 10-15 words: Good, 5-10 words: Average

DO YOU SUDOKU?

LEVEL EASY: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 and only one instance of each number



WORD BUILDER



You have three minutes to find all the words contained in this word.

Rules: Words should be at least four letters long, proper nouns and duplicates don't count

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER



Tensions rise at Belarus-Poland border

Warsaw, Poland - Hundreds of desperate migrants were trapped in freezing weather on the border between Belarus and EU and NATO member Poland on Tuesday, with Warsaw accusing the regime in Minsk of using them to threaten European security.

Western critics have for months said Belarus's strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko is luring migrants from the Middle East to his country to send them across the border, in retaliation for European sanctions.

Belarus denies the claim and accuses Poland of violating human rights by refusing to allow the migrants in.

The tense situation has raised fears of a confrontation on the border, where armed troops from both countries are deployed.

A defiant Lukashenko said he was not looking for an armed confrontation but also would not back down.

"We are not seeking a fight... I am not a madman, I understand perfectly well where it can lead," Lukashenko said in an interview released by state news agency Belta.

"But we will not kneel."

The crisis came to a head on Monday when hundreds of migrants marched to the border in a bid to cross but were blocked by rows of Polish police, soldiers and border guards behind barbed wire.

Poland and Belarus said on Tuesday that between 3,000 to



Migrants coming from different parts of Asia and Africa gather at the Belarusian-Polish border in the Grodno region on Monday (AFP)



Poland's law enforcement officers keep a watch on migrants at the Belarusian-Polish border on Monday (AFP)

4,000 migrants were now in an improvised camp on the border, near the Polish village of Kuznica.

Journalists have been blocked from the area, but videos released by Belarusian and Polish authorities showed the migrants massed along the razor-wire, huddling by fires and in tents as temperatures hovered around freezing.

'Hybrid attack'

Poland said Belarus was using the migrants as a weapon, insisting it would not open its border.

"Sealing the Polish border is our national interest. But today the stability and security of the

entire EU is at stake," Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said on Twitter.

"This hybrid attack of Lukashenko's regime is aimed at all of us. We will not be intimidated and will defend peace in Europe with our partners from NATO and EU."

But Belarus said Warsaw's treatment of the migrants would be a 'litmus test' of its commitment to international norms and cautioned against any 'provocations'.

"We would like to warn the Polish side in advance against any provocations directed against the Republic of Belarus to

justify illegal use of force against disadvantaged, unarmed people, among whom there are many children and women," the Foreign Ministry in Minsk said in a statement.

The Belarusian Defence Ministry said Poland had deployed 10,000 military personnel to the border without giving prior warning to Belarusian authorities, in what it said was a violation of joint security agreements.

Poland's Defence Ministry tweeted video footage showing what it said appeared to be a 'large group of Belarusian officers' approaching the vicinity of the migrant camp.

The European Union called for new sanctions on Belarus, on top of those already applied over Lukashenko's heavy crackdown on the opposition after a disputed election last year.

EU diplomats in Brussels told AFP the bloc was already working on moves to expand existing sanctions to include those involved in trafficking migrants, including potentially airlines and travel agencies.

The Belarusian border guard service said Tuesday that the migrants in the camp were mostly Kurds, that their physical and mental condition was 'extremely poor' and they lacked water, food and the means to wash themselves. 'The situation is aggravated by the large number of pregnant women and infants among the refugees, who must spend the night on the ground in negative temperatures,' it said.

AFP

Hamas sentences 3 to death

Gaza City, Palestinian Territories - The Islamist movement Hamas which rules the Gaza Strip said on Tuesday it had sentenced three people to death, two of them for collaborating with its enemy Israel.

The Hamas military court said recent rulings 'included three death sentences, two of them against collaborators with the occupation, and the third against a drug dealer'.

The court also ruled on 11 other cases involving the same charges. All were handed jail terms ranging from four years to life, except for one suspect whose drug trafficking charge was dropped.

Hamas took over the Gaza Strip in 2007 and has ruled it since, while Israel has imposed a blockade on the territory. Since then, Hamas and Israel have fought four wars, in 2008, 2012, 2014 and this year.

Previously, Hamas announced in late October it had sentenced six Palestinian 'informants' to death for collaborating with Israel.

The Al Mezan Center for Human Rights said it was 'gravely concerned about the incessant issuance of death sentences by the military judiciary'. Hamas said it had 'fulfilled all legal procedures' and granted the convicts their full rights.

Palestinian law requires approval from Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas for the death penalty, but Hamas in Gaza has carried out a number of executions without seeking his permission.

AFP

Yemen facing 'uphill battle' as 115 more Houthis killed

Taez, Yemen - Yemen is facing an 'uphill battle' for peace, UN special envoy Hans Grundberg said on Monday, as the Saudi-led coalition reported another 115 Houthi rebels killed in its latest air strikes around a key northern city.

The Swedish diplomat, who took up the post in September, made the comments during a visit to Taez in the war-torn country's southwest.

As he wrapped up talks with Taez's governor and other political leaders, the coalition claimed another heavy death toll among rebels fighting to seize Marib in the north.

As well as 115 Houthis killed, 19 rebel vehicles were destroyed in coalition strikes over the past 24 hours in Sirwah, west of Marib city, and Al-Jawf to the north, it said in a statement carried by the official Saudi news agency SPA.

Grundberg said, "Military operations [are] causing significant casualties, which are exacerbating the humanitarian situation



Hans Grundberg

and undermining peace efforts."

"Working for peace in Yemen is an uphill battle," he added, while holding out hope of a breakthrough.

"We should never forget that there is always a way to break the cycle of violence. There are always opportunities for peaceful dialogue."

US diplomat visits

In another diplomatic initiative, US special envoy Tom Lenderking, appointed by President Joe Biden to seek an end to the war, made his first visit to Yemen with a stop in Aden, the

government's stronghold.

Lenderking, who met Prime Minister Maeen Abdulmalek Saeed, called for better coordination with southern separatists who have also periodically clashed in recent years with the Saudi-backed government.

Lenderking stressed 'that now is the time for all Yemenis to come together to end this war and enact bold reforms to revive the economy, counter corruption and alleviate suffering', State Department spokesman Ned Price said in a statement.

"Division weakens all parties and only exacerbates suffering," Price said.

Members of the separatist Southern Transitional Council were integrated into the cabinet in December 2020 but the power-sharing arrangement remains shaky.

Lenderking travelled to Aden with Cathy Westley, who is the top diplomat at the US Embassy for Yemen but is based in Riyadh for security reasons.

AFP

Iran army begins military drills near strategic Strait of Hormuz

Tehran, Iran - The Iranian army began on Sunday drills in the southwest of the country, near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, where it said a stand-off with the US recently took place.

"The exercise of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran on an area of more than 1mn sqkm east of the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman and north of the Indian Ocean has begun," state television said.

It broadcast images of the military exercises which involved helicopters, tanks, drones, ships and speedboats.

"This exercise is a serious warning to our enemies and those who have ill intentions towards Iran," the spokesman for the drills, Admiral Mahmoud Moussavi, was quoted as saying by Irib News Agency.

The elite Revolutionary Guard Corps announced on Wednesday it had thwarted an attempt by the US Navy to seize a vessel carrying its oil in the Sea of Oman the previous week.

But US defence officials of-



An Iranian warship fires a Ghadir missile during a military drill on the shore in the coastal region of Balochistan in Iran on Monday (AFP)

fered a contrasting version of events, saying the Iranians had seized the tanker, while US forces 'monitored' the incident without engaging.

The Strait of Hormuz is a chokepoint for global oil shipments, where US and Iranian naval vessels have faced off in the past. The latest tanker incident took place amid protracted efforts to revive a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers that the US unilaterally pulled out of in 2018 under then-

President Donald Trump.

The deal would offer Iran vital relief from debilitating sanctions in return for severe limits in its nuclear activities.

In 2019, a series of attacks on tankers in the Gulf threatened to further drive US-Iran tensions.

Nuclear talks are expected to resume on November 29 in Vienna, after they had been suspended since June after the election of Iran's hardline President Ebrahim Raisi.

AFP

France urges 'rapid solution' to fishing dispute with UK

Paris, France - France urged on Tuesday a 'rapid solution' to a fishing dispute with Britain that has threatened to degenerate into a full-blown trade war, after new talks aimed at breaking weeks of deadlock.

"France remains open to dialogue, but a rapid solution must be found for our fishermen, in line with the implementation of our agreements," France's Europe Minister Clement Beaune wrote on Twitter after telephone talks with Britain's Brexit minister, David Frost.

The conversation came after a crunch face-to-face meeting between the two men in Paris on Thursday on a dispute that has severely exacerbated tensions



This file photo shows Scottish trawler *Cornelis-Gert Jan* leaving the French port of Le Havre on November 3, after being granted permission by the French authorities to leave, amid a dispute over fishing rights (AFP)

between the Channel neighbours in the wake of Britain's exit from the European Union.

Beaune's tweeted comment indicates that no breakthrough was found in the latest talks although dialogue is likely to continue.

France had threatened to ban British boats from unloading their catches at French ports and to subject all British imports to inspections.

President Emmanuel Macron said France would hold off imposing the measures to give dialogue a chance but French officials have insisted the all options remain on the table should dialogue fail.

Under a deal agreed by Britain

and the EU late last year, European fishing vessels can continue to ply UK waters if they can prove they operated there in the past.

But Paris says dozens of French boats have had their applications to fish the UK's rich waters rejected, an assessment strongly contested by London.

The total volumes affected are tiny in terms of overall France-UK bilateral trade.

But analysts say Macron is keen to take a hard line against Johnson as he eyes re-election in a 2022 poll while the British premier is also keen to talk tough in the wake of Brexit.

AFP

Harris arrives in Paris to ease France-US tensions

Paris, France - US Vice President Kamala Harris touched down in Paris on Tuesday on a mission to further mend relations with France after a crisis brought on by a cancelled submarines contract.

During her four-day visit - her third overseas trip in office - Harris will meet with French President Emmanuel Macron, attend a peace forum with other world leaders, participate in a multilateral conference on Libya and take part in commemorations for the anniversary of the end of World War I.

Her trip comes after a huge French-American row that erupted in September when Australia walked out of a multi-billion-dollar submarines deal with Paris in favour of an alternative one with the US.

President Joe Biden sought to make amends at a meeting with Macron last month, telling the French leader that his government had been 'clumsy' in the way it secured the submarines deal with Australia which is part of a new strategic alliance between the US, Australia and Britain called AUKUS.

It was the clearest sign of contrition from the US since the start of the row that saw France recall its ambassadors from Washington and Canberra after the deal that swept aside an agreement worth more than US\$60bn struck by a French defence contractor to sell diesel-powered submarines to Australia.

Harris, who is to meet with Macron on Wednesday, is expected to confirm Biden's overtures, including with discussions about possible US support for



US Vice President Kamala Harris (left) and First Gentleman Doug Emhoff (centre) arrive at Paris-Orly Airport in Orly, near Paris, on Tuesday as she embarks on a mission to mend relations with France (AFP)

France's military mission against militants in the Sahel, and for plans to beef up European defence capabilities.

"The relationship between the United States and France - and also the transatlantic rela-

tionship between the US and Europe - is really critical for us. And this is something that candidate Biden stressed throughout the campaign," a White House official said ahead of the trip.

Another official said Harris's

speech at Thursday's Paris Peace Forum, which focuses this year on COVID recovery, would address 'big, converging global crises'. She will also attend a special session at the Forum dedicated to the regulatory

During her four-day visit, Harris will meet with French President Emmanuel Macron, attend a peace forum, participate in a multilateral conference on Libya and take part in commemorations for the anniversary of the end of World War I

framework for Internet companies, French officials added.

On Thursday's World War I armistice day, Harris is to visit the Mont Valerien American cemetery on the capital's outskirts, they said.

Before returning to Washington, Harris will take part on Friday in the Paris Conference on Libya, a diplomatic push to promote peaceful elections that could stem the numbers of migrants fleeing the conflict-hit country for Europe.

"We want to build a stable and prosperous Libya free from foreign interference and capable of combating terrorism within its borders," the official said.

The Vice President has come under fire over her performance as the administration's point person on America's own migrant crisis at the US-Mexico border, which critics say has worsened since Biden came into office.

AFP



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen

Taiwan says China capable of air, sea blockade of island

Taipei, Taiwan - China is capable of blockading Taiwan's major ports and airports to cut off key transport links, the island's Defence Ministry warned on Tuesday, with Beijing-Taipei tensions at their highest in years.

Taiwan lives under the constant threat of invasion by China, which sees the self-ruled democratic island as part of its territory to be brought into its fold, by force if necessary.

Beijing has ramped up pressure - including record incursions by warplanes - since Tsai Ing-wen became Taiwan's President in 2016, as she views the island as a sovereign nation and not part of 'one China'.

Beijing is strengthening its air, sea and land strike capabilities against the island, Taiwan's Defence Ministry said in a biennial report released on Tuesday.

Those capabilities include imposing a 'blockade against our critical harbours, airports and outbound flight routes, to cut off our air and sea lines of communication', the Defence

Ministry's report added.

The report also warned that China is capable of striking all of Taiwan with its missile arsenal, including ballistic and cruise variants, and is also beefing up its ability to launch amphibious assaults on the island.

Taiwan's Defence Minister warned last month that military tensions with China were at their highest in four decades, after record incursions by Chinese warplanes into the island's air defence identification zone.

The zone is not the same as Taiwan's territorial airspace but includes a far greater area that overlaps with part of China's own air defence identification zone.

China's 'frequent manipulation of grey zone threats' such as the warplane incursions, as well as other methods of warfare including cyberattacks, are aimed at 'seizing Taiwan without a fight', the Defence Ministry report said on Tuesday.

AFP



Bill Richardson (left) meeting with Myanmar's military chief Min Aung Hlaing in Naypyidaw on November 2 (AFP)

Myanmar regime 'open' for progress, says US ex-diplomat

Washington, US - Bill Richardson, the former US diplomat turned global troubleshooter, said on Monday that he believed Myanmar's junta was open to working with the world on humanitarian relief and possibly more after a rare visit that drew scrutiny.

Richardson, a former US ambassador to the United Nations and governor of New Mexico, appeared last week in a photo meeting military leader Min Aung Hlaing, who had just been snubbed at a summit of the ASEAN regional bloc.

In an interview with AFP, Richardson rejected rebukes by rights advocates and said that he hoped he made progress including in addressing the severe COVID-19 outbreak in the country formerly known as Burma.

"I'm optimistic. I'm hopeful that we made some mild progress that might lead to a better situation," Richardson said on his return to the United States.

"I sensed that they are open

to more contact," Richardson said, while adding, "It's going to be difficult."

Richardson said he was invited by the Foreign Ministry to look at ways to bring in COVID-19 vaccines.

He said that he suggested that Myanmar initially take in two million doses from Covax, the international alliance for developing countries, and that he gave specific recommendations on food delivery to hard-hit parts of the countryside.

Richardson said he was hopeful he had brokered a deal for a resumption of visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross to prisons - which have been filled with political prisoners - that have been suspended over COVID concerns.

He previously announced that he was able to bring out one prisoner, Aye Moe, who worked for his Richardson Center with a focus on women's empowerment.

Speaking of his meeting with General Min, Richardson said,

"I've been criticised for a photo-op that I had with him, but I think it was worth it."

"If I got a prisoner out that was very important to me, if I made progress on humanitarian and vaccine issues and allowing prison visits by the Red Cross - resuming them - I think that's an easy give."

"I'm not a government. I don't legitimise governments. The people of Myanmar do, and governments do. I'm just one person that is trying to make a difference."

The military on February 1 ousted the elected government, slamming the brakes on a fragile decade-long transition to democracy and arresting civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

To the surprise of many diplomats, the Association of South-east Asian Nations - known for non-interference - has recently taken a firm line against the coup, refusing to let the junta leader represent Myanmar at an October summit.

AFP

Indian women plant thousands of mangroves in Sundarbans forest

Sundarbans , India - With India facing ever more powerful cyclones, women in the world's largest mangrove forest are planting thousands of saplings to help protect their coastal communities from climate change.

The Sundarbans straddle the coastline into neighbouring Bangladesh and are home to some of the world's rarest creatures, including the Bengal tiger and the Irrawaddy dolphin.

The forest has been designated a World Heritage site but has in the past suffered from illegal logging and is regularly battered by intense monsoon storms.

Walking ankle-deep along a muddy shore, and balancing young plants on their heads, a group of local women last week began the long process of reforesting a bare stretch of coastline.

"This is an area prone to storms and cyclones," said Shivani Adhikari, one of the women involved in the initiative. "So to protect the embankments, all of



Sundarbans forest has been designated a World Heritage site

us women are planting."

Mangroves protect coastlines from erosion and extreme weather events, improve water quality by filtering pollutants, and serve as nurseries for many marine creatures, according to the UN Environment Programme.

They can help fight climate change by sequestering millions of tons of carbon each year in their leaves, trunks, roots and the soil.

And they also help buffer

coastal communities from the cyclones that have coursed through the area.

"If these embankments are protected, our village will survive," said Goutam Nashkar, who lives near the project site.

"If our village survives, we will survive," he added. "This is our hope, our wish."

The project, backed by a local non-profit and the West Bengal government, aims to plant around 10,000

mangrove saplings.

India's eastern states and the coast of Bangladesh are regularly battered by cyclones that have claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in recent decades.

While the frequency and intensity in storms have increased - with climate change to blame - deaths have fallen thanks to faster evacuations, better forecasting and more shelters.

AFP

Sudan court orders end to Internet cut

Khartoum, Sudan - A Sudanese court ruled on Tuesday that Internet services cut during a military coup more than two weeks ago must be restored, a lawyer said. However, the country remained largely offline early Tuesday, despite the court's directive to Internet

service providers.

"The ruling by Khartoum district court ordered Internet services to be resumed immediately," lawyer Abdelazim Hassan told AFP. The case was brought by a group of lawyers and the Sudanese consumers protection society, he said,

adding that the court had also ruled services should run during a possible appeals process.

Online access in Sudan has largely been blocked since October 25, the day of a widely condemned military coup, and phone lines have also been intermittently disrupted.

Sudan's top general Abdel Fattah al Burhan dissolved the government, declared a state of emergency and detained the civilian leadership. Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok was detained, then placed under effective house arrest.

AFP

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Germany's unvaccinated defiant as rules tighten

Radeberg, Germany - The eastern German state of Saxony may have ordered tough curbs on the unvaccinated to push them to get the COVID-19 jab, but shop assistant Sabine Lonnatzsch (59) is unmoved.

The new rules are 'discriminatory' because they are 'pushing the unvaccinated further into a corner', she tells AFP.

She won't change her mind about getting inoculated - she just won't go to restaurants or events anymore.

"I've had corona cases in my family and in my eyes it is nothing more than a bad flu," she says.

With COVID-19 infections rocketing in Germany, Saxony this week became the first to largely exclude unvaccinated people from indoor dining, cinemas and bars.

The new rules, likely to be emulated by other states in the coming weeks, are designed not only to reduce the spread of COVID-19 but also to encourage more people to get inoculated.

But Lonnatzsch is not the only one resisting the jab in the town of Radeberg in Bautzen district, which has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the country at just 45.7 per cent.

The clothing store No 1 Mode where she works has a sign in the window that lets customers know that all are welcome - regardless of vaccination status.

Across the town square, the



People line up in front of a bus - being used as a mobile corona vaccination centre - to get their COVID-19 jabs amid the sudden rise in the number of infections, on the Marienplatz in the southern German city of Stuttgart on Tuesday (AFP)

co-owner of Cafe Roethig also has no plans to get the vaccine.

Like many people in the region, Carola Roethig (58) is 'not convinced' by the jab because 'it was developed in such a short space of time'.

The district of Bautzen has one of the highest incidence rates in the country at 645.3 cases per 100,000 people, but Roethig is not worried about catching the virus.

The new rules are 'definitely bad for business', she says at the cafe's bakery counter, which is lined with untouched fresh cakes, tarts and iced donuts.

"Many of our customers are not vaccinated, so we are losing income, because fewer people are coming in," she says.

The rules are also bad for her personal life.

"I'm not allowed to go to a restaurant in the evening and have a nice dinner with my husband. I don't think it is right."

Outside the cafe, 40 year old Susan feels the same.

'Nothing would convince me' to get the jab, she says, without giving her last name.

"I see no sense in it because [vaccinated people] can still get the disease and infect others."

Vaccine push

The new rules come as new infections surge in Germany, with the national incidence rate reaching 213.7 cases per 100,000 people over the past seven days on Tuesday - a record since the pandemic began.

The political parties looking to form a coalition government after September's election have so far ruled out compulsory vaccinations and general lockdowns to tackle the surge.

But with just 67 per cent of the population fully jabbed, ministers say encouraging more

people to get vaccinated is key to bringing the numbers down.

Outside Radeberg town hall, a modest queue of people formed for a vaccination event organised to encourage more people to get the jab.

Kitchen assistant Mirmirza Kabirzada (36) had previously hesitated because, "I heard that many people died in Norway and others got a fever, so I was a little bit afraid."

But with the numbers rising so dramatically, "Now I realised this is very important," he says. AFP

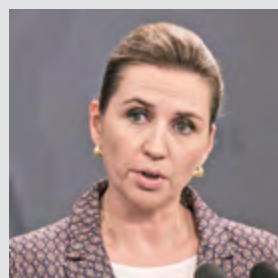
Denmark brings back virus curbs

Copenhagen, Denmark - Denmark will re-introduce a health pass because of a sharp rise in COVID-19 infections, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said on Monday, less than two months after scrapping controls.

The Epidemic Commission has recommended the government classify the coronavirus as a 'socially threatening disease' and re-impose the pass, Frederiksen told journalists.

"The government will follow this recommendation."

She acknowledged that the return of the pass would make life more difficult for those who were not vaccinated, but added, "That's how I think it should be."



Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen (AFP)

The number of new coronavirus cases was higher than 2,000 again on Monday, for the fifth day running. Medical staff are treating 26 people in intensive care.

The health pass will be re-introduced in bars, restaurants and night clubs and will be obligatory for those aged 15 and above. AFP

Global infections more than 250mn

Paris, France - More than 250mn COVID-19 infections have been recorded worldwide since the start of the pandemic, according to an AFP count compiled from official reports at 2100 GMT on Monday.

Globally, more than 5mn deaths from COVID-19 have been recorded so far, but the vast majority of those infected have recovered. Some, however, have continued to experience symptoms weeks or even months later.

The figures are based on daily reports provided by health authorities in each country.

Europe is the region with the highest number of infec-

tions, registering more than 76mn cases since the start of the outbreak in China in December 2019.

Asia is the second most affected with 56,201,653 cases, followed by the United States and Canada (48,290,522 infections) and Latin America and the Caribbean (46,107,131).

The number of new coronavirus cases around the world has been slowly increasing over the past few weeks.

Nearly 449,000 new daily infections have been recorded on average over the past seven days, against just over 400,000 in mid-October. AFP

Thousands of New Zealanders gather to protest against virus restrictions

Wellington, New Zealand - Thousands of demonstrators marched on the New Zealand parliament to protest against COVID-19 restrictions on Tuesday, prompting a major police deployment at the Wellington building known as the Beehive.

About 3,000 people, most not wearing masks, made their way through the capital's city centre, including dozens of motorcyclists in biker gang regalia performing burnouts.

Some attendees carried 'Trump 2020' flags, while others bore signs carrying messages from Maori groups, those impacted by lockdowns, and teachers who face losing their jobs if they refuse vaccination.

Others targeted Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern with slogans such as 'Pro Choice, Anti Jacinda', with 'Media Lies' and 'Media Treason' also prominent.

The protest was peaceful, with demonstrators dispersing after performing a massed haka



Protesters attend a Freedom and Rights Coalition demonstration seeking an end to COVID-19 restrictions and mandatory vaccination outside the Parliament House building in Wellington on Tuesday (AFP)

on the grounds of parliament. The traditional Maori haka is used in a variety of ways - to intimidate rivals, to celebrate, but

also to mourn.

Police said there were no arrests in Wellington, although they expressed disappointment

over so many participants flouting coronavirus restrictions.

They said one officer was bitten at a separate small protest

just outside Auckland when police were physically removing a demonstrator from the road.

Ardern said most New Zealanders supported her government's virus response, citing figures showing almost 90 per cent of the population had received their first vaccination dose.

"What we saw today was not representative of the vast bulk of New Zealanders," she said.

Ardern's government has adopted a tough COVID-19 response, including hard lockdowns and tight border restrictions, which has seen New Zealand record only 31 virus deaths in a population of 5mn.

Residents of the country's largest city, Auckland, have been subject to stay-at-home orders since mid-August and Ardern this week indicated the restrictions would remain until the end of November. AFP



US First Lady Jill Biden with vaccinated children at the Franklin Sherman Elementary School in Virginia on Monday (AFP)

US First Lady pushes vaccine for young kids

Washington, US - US First Lady Jill Biden on Monday visited a school in Virginia to promote vaccinations for five-11 year olds, the latest effort in the White House's push to combat the pandemic.

The President's wife, a university professor, was the first senior personality sent out to advocate for the vaccine since it was approved for younger children in the US on November 2.

Visiting Franklin Sherman Elementary School in Virginia, Biden handed out stickers to students who had already been vaccinated and encouraged the audience to applaud them.

But her message was mainly directed at parents.

"Nothing is more important than our children's health," she said. "It's up to us to keep them safe - and with this vaccine, we can." AFP

India's annual Pushkar Camel Fair returns after coronavirus hump

Pushkar, India - Hundreds of herders and their animals gathered in the desert city of Pushkar on Tuesday for India's biggest camel-trading fair.

The northern city typically attracts thousands of Hindu pilgrims, cattle traders and herders for the annual event, but it was called off in 2020 because of the pandemic.

The gathering in the desert state of Rajasthan sees traditional camel breeding commu-

nities trek sometimes hundreds of kilometres from their remote villages to trade their animals.

The 13-day fair, which opened on Monday, coincides with several auspicious days in the Hindu calendar, adding to the crowds thronging the revered lakeside city.

"Pushkar is about both cattle trading and religious rituals," Prafull Mathur from Rajasthan's animal husbandry department told AFP.



A trader arrives with his camels at the Pushkar Camel Fair in Pushkar in the western Indian state of Rajasthan on Tuesday (AFP)

"The COVID-19 situation hasn't fully normalised but we still expect a good attendance," Mathur added.

Organisers usually hold competitions for camel herders, which are a major attraction for domestic and international tourists, but the government hasn't yet clarified if the contests will be allowed this year.

The fair is the only time of the year when camel breeders - most of whom live in remote,

nomadic communities in the desert - can earn cash income that helps sustain their way of life.

The camels are mostly purchased by people from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to use on their farms or as transport. Other animals, including horses, are also bought and sold at the event.

India's security forces deployed along the international border with Pakistan also use

camels extensively to patrol remote stretches.

To help remote camel breeding communities diversify their income, the government has been trying to promote camel milk, camel leather and camel bone products.

The region's prominent camel herding community, Raikas, believe that the Hindu deity Shiva handed them the responsibility to rear camels. AFP

Amazon rainforest destruction threatens jaguars, giant eagles

Pôrto Jofre, Brazil - Boating slowly upriver through the Pantanal, the world's biggest tropical wetlands, Brazilian biologist Fernando Tortato scans the bank for signs of Ousado, a jaguar badly burned in devastating wildfires last year.

A thousand kilometers to the north, at the rapidly receding edge of the Amazon rainforest, conservationist Roberto Eduardo Stofel peers through his binoculars, monitoring a baby harpy eagle sitting alone in a giant nest, its parents apparently out searching for increasingly hard-to-find food.

The sleek, majestic jaguar and spectacularly powerful harpy eagle are two of the most iconic species threatened by the accelerating destruction of the Amazon, whose breathtaking biodiversity risks collapsing as the world's biggest rainforest approaches a 'tipping point'.

Scientists say that is the point at which a vicious circle of deforestation, wildfires and climate change could damage the rainforest so badly it dies off and turns to savannah - with catastrophic consequences for its more than three million species of plants and animals.

'Flying rivers' drying up

The jaguar and harpy eagle are already feeling the impact.

Ousado, a four-year-old, 75kg male, was wounded a year ago when wildfires tore through the Pantanal, fueled by the region's worst drought in 47 years.

The region, which sits just south of the Amazon, is known for its stunning wildlife, drawing tourists from around the world.

But nearly a third of it burned in last year's fires, killing or wounding countless animals - including Ousado, who was found with third-degree burns on his paws, barely able to walk.

Veterinarians took the big black-and-yellow spotted cat to an animal hospital, treated him, and then reintroduced him to the



This file photo shows a jaguar looking for a prey in Porto Jofre, Pantanal, Mato Grosso state, Brazil, on September 2 (AFP)



A wild Harpy eagle holds food given by guides working for the South Wild Safaris in the Fazenda Nicolau, in Brazil's Alta Floresta (AFP)

wild with a tracking collar to monitor his recovery - which is going well.

The destruction of the Pantanal, Tortato explains, is directly linked to that of the Amazon.

The rainforest's 390bn trees generate water vapor that dumps rain across much of South Amer-

ica - a phenomenon known as 'flying rivers'.

Sometimes appearing as wisps of mist streaking skyward, then gathering into giant clouds that look like streams of cotton, these 'rivers' likely carry more water than the Amazon River itself, scientists say.

As humans raze the forest for farms and pastureland, "the rainfall that would normally arrive in the Pantanal via the 'flying rivers' has diminished," says Tortato (37) of conservation group Panthera.

Classified as 'near threatened', the jaguar, the biggest cat in the Americas, has its stronghold in the Amazon.

Its population declined an estimated 20 to 25 per cent over the past two decades.

Facing starvation

Known for its massive size, fearsome claws and tufts of feathers protruding Beethoven-like from its head, the harpy eagle is, like the jaguar, an apex predator in the Amazon.

Weighing up to 10kg, harpies scope their prey from the canopy, and then swoop in with deadly precision, snatching monkeys, sloths and even small deer.

But despite their hunting prowess, they are at risk of starvation.

It takes the gray and white eagles, which mate for life, about

two years to raise their young. They fledge just one eaglet at a time, but need enormous territory to hunt enough food.

A recent study found harpy eagles are not adapted to hunt for prey outside the forest, and cannot survive in areas with more than 50 per cent deforestation - increasingly common at the Amazon's edges.

"They are at high risk of extinction in this region because of deforestation and logging," says Stofel (43), who works on a harpy conservation programme in Cotriguacu, in Mato Grosso state.

The area sits on the so-called 'arc of deforestation'.

In a poignant snapshot of the harpy's plight, AFP journalists saw one eagle eating food set out for it by conservationists, against the backdrop of a logging truck hauling giant tree trunks from the forest. "We've monitored nests where the eaglets starved to death because the parents couldn't hunt enough food," Stofel says.

AFP



A woman holds a banner with the portrait of Primer Minister Abiy Ahmed during a rally in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Sunday (AFP)

Ethiopia's Oromo rebel leader predicts victory 'very soon'

Nairobi, Kenya - A rebel leader fighting Ethiopia's government has said his troops are near the capital and preparing another attack, predicting the war will end 'very soon' as diplomats rush to negotiate a ceasefire.

Jaal Marroo, commander of the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), warned Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed that pro-government fighters were defecting and the rebels were very close to victory.

"What I am sure (of) is that it is going to end very soon," Jaal, whose real name is Kumsa Diriba, told AFP in a phone interview on Sunday.

"We are preparing to push for another launch, and for another attack. The government is just trying to buy time, and they are trying to instigate civil war in this country, so they are calling for the nation to fight."

The OLA and its allies, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), have claimed several victories in recent weeks, taking towns about 400km from the capital, and have not ruled out marching on Addis Ababa.

Jaal said his fighters were now just 40km from Addis and had 'never moved (back) an inch' from territory they controlled.

AFP could not independently confirm his claim.

Much of the conflict-affected zone is under a communications blackout and access for journalists is restricted, making battle-

field positions difficult to verify.

The government has rejected suggestions the rebels are within striking distance of Addis Ababa, but has ordered the capital to prepare to defend itself.

"While we are being tested on many fronts, our collective will to realise the path we have embarked upon has strengthened us," Abiy said on Twitter on Monday, a day after tens of thousands marched in Addis Ababa in support of the government.

Government spokeswoman Selamawit Kassa said the military had carried out airstrikes on Monday in Tigray and a 'strategic' location between Amhara and Afar regions, without giving further details.

The rebels say they have taken key towns in southeastern Amhara, close to the Afar border.

Ethiopia's Human Rights Commission on Monday expressed concern about a sweeping crackdown in Addis Ababa since a nationwide state of emergency was declared on November 2. 'The commission... has verified that arrests are being conducted in a manner that seems to be based on identity and ethnicity,' it said, adding that those detained included mothers with children.

A number of countries have urged citizens not to travel to Ethiopia. The UN has suspended non-essential travel to Addis Ababa.

AFP

Thousands flee as 'insurgents' attack DR Congo army

Goma, DR Congo - Thousands of people living near DR Congo's eastern border with Uganda fled their homes on Monday after suspected insurgents attacked army positions, officials said.

The attacks began at around 2000 GMT on Sunday with gunfire continuing into the night, sending desperate residents of Rutshuru territory in troubled North Kivu province fleeing over the border into Uganda.

The Congolese military pinned the blame for the attacks on an insurgent group called M23, one of more than 120 armed groups who roam the area, a legacy of regional wars that shook the area more than two decades ago.



Residents scramble for safety as shots ring in the eastern city of Bukavu on Sunday (AFP)

The M23, a Congolese Tutsi group largely defeated after launching a rebellion almost a decade ago, denied any involvement.

The attacks took place near Bunagana, a key border post and transit point for goods headed to regional capital Goma some 80km west.

The assailants overran the position of a paramilitary guard, stationed in the area to protect the Virunga National Park, a renowned conservation site.

Local officials and the Red Cross in the Kisoro region of Uganda said roughly 5,000 people had poured across the border and the area was 'overwhelmed'.

The escapees included older people, women and children, and they had no access to basic amenities like water or shelter, according to local official Rukundo Manasseh.

The arrivals were being taken to a transit centre in Nyakabande, said Kisoro Red Cross chief Primrose Natukunda.

'State of siege'

"The M23 insurgent movement attacked army positions... with the intention of carrying out other actions in the territory of Rutshuru," Brigadier General Sylvain Ekenge told reporters in Goma.

However, M23 leader Bertrand Bisimwa denied the

claims, saying in a statement: 'The M23 is not engaged in any armed confrontations in the territory of Rutshuru.'

Congolese communication minister Patrick Muyaya earlier told Belgian media in Brussels that 'several armed forces positions' had been attacked 'in a strategic zone on the border between the DRC and Uganda'.

The provinces of North Kivu and Ituri have been under a 'state of siege' for months to support a military offensive aimed at neutralising armed groups.

President Felix Tshisekedi has replaced civilian authorities there with army and police officers.

AFP

CLASSIFIEDS

JOP VACANCY

Wanted an experienced Graphic Designer for an advertising agency. Whatsapp CV to 91764576

SITUATION WANTED

Indian male graduate Executive Secretary with stenography/ Oman driving License and 30 years experience in Muscat available with NOC for immediate joining. Call: 79256679

WJ Towell Group Company



Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat 9014 6672, 9679 0684
Sohar 9731 6218 | Salalah 9429 9325
www.orbit-oman.com

- Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
- Choose from a wide range of brands & models
- PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
- Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease



أوربت
ORBIT
Car Rental & Lease

FREE CLASSIFIED LISTING

Muscat Daily now offers free classified listings for individuals in the following categories:
Situations Wanted/ Accommodation Wanted or Available/
Sale of Household Items/ Car for Sale or Wanted/
Matrimonial Alliances (Word limit is 35)

Please email your listing to
dailyclassifieds@apexmedia.co.om or call 99104346

WORLD VEGAN MONTH

VEGAN

November is observed internationally as World Vegan Month to propagate the notion that eating an animal-free diet is healthier for the body and better for the planet as it eliminates unnecessary cruelty to animals. **If you are a vegan, or one who would like to share similar sentiments, even for a day, try preparing some really delicious vegan food, as below:**

Lentil Bolognese

Ingredients

- 2tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion - diced
- 1½ cup diced carrots
- 1½ cups diced celery
- 4–6 cloves garlic – chopped
- 1½tsp salt
- ½tsp pepper
- ¼tsp chilli flakes - optional
- 1tbsp fresh oregano or thyme
- ½ cup tomato paste
- 1¼ cup black lentils
- 3 tomatoes - diced
- 3½ cups vegetable stock

- ¾ cup crushed toasted walnuts or pecans
- 2tsp balsamic vinegar

Method

Heat oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the onion and saute for 2-3 minutes stirring until fragrant. Lower heat to medium, then add the carrots, celery, garlic, salt, pepper, chilli flakes, and herbs. Saute 7-8 minutes, stirring.

Add the tomato paste, stir and

cook for a few minutes. Add the lentils, veg stock, walnuts, and bring to a boil with lid on. Then, lower heat and simmer until the lentils are tender. Continue cooking uncovered until most of the liquid has cooked off. Stir in the balsamic vinegar, taste, and adjust salt, pepper, vinegar and chilli flakes.

Boil your favourite pasta as per instructions on pack. Serve the lentils tossed over your pasta.



Vegetable Fried Rice

Ingredients

- 200g tofu - crumbled
- 4–5tbsp oil - divided
- 3 garlic cloves - chopped
- 4 cups chopped veggies (carrots, mushrooms, cabbage, broccoli, zucchini, spinach)
- 1 cup shelled peas, 3 cups cooked, cold rice, 3tbsp soy sauce, 1tsp toasted sesame oil
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- ¼ cup scallions, 1onion - diced
- 1–2tsp toasted sesame seeds

Method

In an extra-large non-stick skillet, heat 2tbsp oil over medium heat and scramble the tofu. Season with a little salt and pepper. Set aside on a large plate.

In the same pan, heat oil over

medium, and saute the onion. Once tender, add the garlic and saute 1-2 minutes. Lower heat to medium and add longer cooking veggies first (like carrots and mushrooms), then add the other veggies, leaving the greens for the end. Toss in the peas and stir. Set aside with tofu. Again heat enough oil to lightly coat the pan.

Add the rice, spreading it out. Turn up heat to med-high, and let it get a little crispy, resisting the urge to constantly stir. Once the rice is crispy enough to your liking, add the tofu and the veggies. Toss, add soy sauce, sesame oil and salt and pepper to taste. Divide among bowls and top with fresh scallions and toasted sesame seeds.



Every year, on November 1, vegans across the world celebrate and champion their vegan lifestyle

Roasted Whole Cauliflower

Ingredients

- 1 whole cauliflower head
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil or melted ghee
- Kosher salt, to taste
- For garnish - any favourite sauce and herbs

Method

Preheat the oven to 180° C and place a rack in the middle position. Trim away the leaves at the bottom of the cauliflower head. Carefully cut off and remove the stem and tough core, but be careful to keep the head intact.

Drizzle olive oil or melted ghee all over it and with your hands, rub the oil on the surface until the cauliflower is well coated. Season both sides of the cauliflower liberally with salt. Place the cauliflower florets-side up on a cast iron skillet, and cover tightly with aluminum foil. Put the skillet on the middle rack in the oven. Cook for 30 minutes, covered.

Remove the foil from the skillet, and roast for an additional hour in the oven. Once the cauliflower is golden brown on the outside and tender on the inside, take it out of the oven.

Before serving, garnish with fresh herbs and your favourite sauce.



QUOTE OF THE DAY
I think of all the things we've done well... The guys are extremely excited about the challenge against New Zealand
Eoin Morgan
England skipper, on the team's ability to 'forge on' despite injury blows, ahead of Wednesday's match



ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2021

Williamson wary of 'power packed' England in T20 WC semi-final

Abu Dhabi, UAE - New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson on Tuesday lauded England's depth as a Twenty20 side and said they would be strong opponents in the World Cup semi-final despite injuries to key players.

Both teams have won four games each of their five in the Super 12 stage and fight for a final spot in a game that brings back memories of their dramatic 2019 50-over World Cup final won by England.

The Kiwis have since clinched the inaugural world Test championship this year and have performed consistently well across all formats.

Eoin Morgan's England have been the team to beat in the competition but injuries to fast bowler Tymal Mills and Jason Roy which could unsettle their combination.

"It's a real shame that they have suffered injuries in this competition. But I think one of the strengths as well of the England side is their depth that they've managed to produce over a period of time," Williamson told reporters.

"Having spent some time at the Birmingham Phoenix and being sort of a little bit involved in that 100 ball competition and you can tell that there's a huge amount of talent throughout.

"They're still very much a very strong side who have been playing some really good cricket."

Williamson said, "Look, they've got match winners throughout their team. And that's been a big, I suppose, movement of their white ball side. Power packed and bat deep as well."

New Zealand's strength has been their pace duo of Trent Boult and Tim Southee who have rattled the opposition with their early strikes in the group stages.

Boult and Southee share 18 wickets between them and lead a disciplined New Zealand bowling attack that has complemented their batting.

"They've been brilliant. They've been involved in the team in all formats for a long time and really experienced operators for us," Williamson said of the pace pair.

"They've been doing a fantastic job for us, really leading our

attack who have been performing well and adjusting well to the different surfaces that we've been on. And a real strength on our side."

Amazing game

Remind Williamson smiles off the memories of the fateful World Cup final in July 2019 when New Zealand took the match to the super over but lost on boundary count.

The skipper says the team has surely moved on and looks forward to the challenge ahead of them.

"It was an amazing game to be a part of. And certainly all the guys that when it does come up in conversation it's looked back on fondly and appreciate that experience," he said.

"Although, at the time the aftermath was very difficult to understand and perhaps didn't make a lot of sense. But that is what it is. And you sign up. You play by the rules and you move on and you look forward to the next challenges. And now we're at a T20 World Cup, and the cricket just continues to roll on."

Williamson, who has scored 126 runs with a highest of 40 not out in the team's previous win over Afghanistan, said his troubled elbow is still not hundred per cent. "That has been a bit of a challenge for me personally."

AFP



They're still very much a very strong side who have been playing some really good cricket.

KANE WILLIAMSON

ONLY
PURE
WATER

AND
PERFECT
TASTE



ONLY
WHAT'S
ESSENTIAL



India turn to 'Hitman' Rohit Sharma for new T20 direction

New Delhi, India - Rohit Sharma has been named the new captain of India's T20 side, replacing Virat Kohli, the cricket board said on Tuesday after the side were dumped out of the World Cup.

The Board of Cricket Control of India tweeted that the 34-year-old opening batsman was 'named the T20I Captain for India' as it announced the squad for an upcoming tour by New Zealand.

Kohli, who took over T20I captaincy in 2017, had announced his decision to step down in September, citing his 'immense workload'. He remains the skipper of the one-day and Test teams.

The announcement follows news that former batting legend Rahul Dravid was replacing Ravi Shastri as coach for all formats following the World Cup, where India failed to qualify for the semi-finals.

The right-handed Sharma, known for his hard hitting, made his debut in 2007 for the national



Rohit Sharma plays a shot during the match against Namibia at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, in Dubai on Monday (AFP)

team, initially playing limited overs cricket before being included in the Test team in 2013.

Sharma also captained the Mumbai Indians to victory in the Indian Premier League (IPL) five times. Royal Challengers Bangalore, led by Kohli, have never won the title.

Kohli was also not named in the T20 squad for the New Zealand tour to give the batsman time to rest. Also left out were pace bowlers Mohammed Shami

and Jasprit Bumrah as well as bowling all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja.

The tour by New Zealand begins on November 17 with the first of three T20 games followed by two Test matches.

Sharma has played 116 T20 international matches, scoring 3029 runs and averages over 32.

He has amassed 9205 runs in 227 ODI's and 3047 from 43 Test matches at an average of nearly 47.

India faced sharp criticism at home over their dismal performance in the T20 World Cup, including their humiliating defeat at the hands of arch-rival Pakistan as well as New Zealand.

But Shastri said on Monday after his last game in charge after five years that the current team was 'one of the great cricket teams in the history of the game'.

"We might not have won this World Cup, but I think going forward we'll continue to have a strong team because the IPL throws a lot of young players into the mix. Rahul (Dravid) will have his own ideas on how to take this team forward," Shastri said. "I think in Rohit you've got a very capable guy. He's won so many IPLs. He's the vice-captain of this side. He's waiting in the wings to take that job," Shastri added.

Kohli tweeted on Monday: 'Together as one we set out to achieve our goal. Unfortunately, we fell short and no one is more disappointed than us as a side.'

AFP

Bangladesh cricket to probe abject T20 World Cup showing

Dhaka, Bangladesh - Cricket authorities in Bangladesh are to investigate their team's underwhelming performances in the T20 World Cup which saw them open with a defeat to Scotland and lose all five Super 12 stage matches.

Eighth-ranked Bangladesh trudged through to Super 12s only courtesy of wins against minnows Oman and Papua New Guinea. They then came under scathing criticism after finishing bottom of their group, skittled out twice for less than 100 in their last two matches.

A committee will gauge 'relevant stakeholders to assess why the team could not deliver the expected performance in the event,' the Bangladesh Cricket Board said on Monday.

AFP

Every day, all day!



FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Barca's La Masia finally opens its doors to women

Barcelona, Spain - When Claudia Riumallo Pineda wakes up, it does not take her long to know where she is.

From her bedroom window she can see the Johan Cruyff Stadium inside Barcelona's Ciutat Esportiva training ground, where she dreams of one day playing for the women's first team.

She is on the right track. The 18-year-old is one of nine trail-blazers who this season became the first female players to enrol at La Masia, Barca's famed football academy and proving ground for the likes of Lionel Messi, Andres Iniesta and Xavi Hernandez.

Since its opening in 1979 as an old house next to Camp Nou, La Masia has never had female residents.

But the women's team has been knocking on the door for a long time, with Barcelona Femeni winning the Champions League, Liga Femenina and Copa de la Reina last season.

"This year they have given us La Masia, which is a gift," says Claudia, who for years had to travel an hour by car from her town of Girona just to be able to train with girls.

After playing for local rivals Espanyol, she now represents Barca B and in the afternoons studies chemistry at university.

Shaken by financial crisis and the unexpected departure of Messi, most of the good news around the club these days comes from the women's team.

As well as last season's treble, Barca's captain Alexia Putellas was chosen as UEFA's best player of the year and is now also nominated, along with four teammates, for the Women's Ballon d'Or.

"It's a huge responsibility because we are the pioneers but it's also nice to know that you are one of the first women to go to



This file photo shows Barcelona's women's B team Spanish defender Maria Molina Molero training at the La Masia Residence, Oriol Tort Education Center, in Sant Joan Despi on September 20 this year (AFP)

La Masia," says Laura Coronado, an 18-year-old goalkeeper.

Coronado's photo, like that of the 105 others at La Masia spread across the club's five professional sports, now hangs in the reception of the more modern complex that took over from the original in 2011.

Gavi, the latest gem of the men's team, arrived when he was eleven years old and continues to live there.

The 19-year-old Ansu Fati is also a former resident.

"The good thing we have at this club is the mirror is very clear," explains Markel Zubizarreta, sporting director of Barcelona Femeni. "We just have to look at the men's side to see what we have to aim for."

From strength to strength

In the corridor heading towards the games room is another reminder: A mural on the wall in tribute to the game between Levante and Barca on November 25, 2012.

It was another win that contributed to Barca winning the title that year but also a milestone for La Masia, after Barcelona had 11 homegrown players on the pitch, not to mention the coach, the late Tito Vilanova.

At that time it was difficult to imagine how the female team could find breathing space at a club where the men's team was so dominant - but the women's game continues to go from strength to strength.

In 2020, there were 77,400 licensed female players in Spain, 7.2 per cent of all the federated footballers, according to statistics from the Ministry of Sports.

It is still a small figure, but a clear improvement from 2011, when there were only 36,200, 4.3 per cent of the total.

"There are many things that are still missing, such as professionalisation in the League," says Coronado. "We know the salaries are not going to be equal, but we would like to be able to live more comfortably from football, and that's what we're fighting for."

Spain's Ministry for Sport approved the professionalisation of La Liga Femenina in June but negotiations to see it through are proving complicated.

For all

Like many of her generation, Barca defender Jana Fernandez started out playing with boys.

At six years old, she convinced her parents to let her join her local team and, now 19, she has already won the treble. But the road has not been easy.

"I try to remind the girls who are at La Masia now to take advantage as much as possible because I would have loved to be here," explains Fernandez, who combines professional football with a career in advertising.

Women's sport has taken a big leap in recent years, but there is still work to do. "We want to fight to get more and more for those playing now," she says.

AFP

Ferdinand says it is time for Solskjaer to leave Man Utd

London, UK - Rio Ferdinand has called for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to hand over the Manchester United manager's 'baton' after a string of damaging results left the club well off the pace in the Premier League.

The Norwegian boss is under intense pressure after a 5-0 home thumping by Liverpool and a one-sided 2-0 defeat at the hands of Manchester City on Saturday.

Ferdinand has been one of many ex-United players to voice support for his former team-mate, who led the club to a second-place finish in the league last season.

The ex-England defender said fans started the season full

of hope after the high-profile signings of Cristiano Ronaldo, Jadon Sancho and Raphael Varane before results nosedived.

"I sit here now and I don't think we can challenge to win this league," Ferdinand said on his Vibe with Five podcast.

"I look at our team every week and I'm wondering what are we going to do tactically. I don't see any philosophy or an identity in the Man United way of playing, whatever that should be from the management. I sit here confused, looking at the team."

Ferdinand said United had made steady progress during Solskjaer's nearly three years at the helm but now he felt there is a need for a change.



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (AFP)

AFP

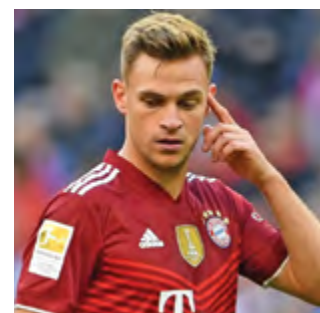
Kimmich among 5 in quarantine

Berlin, Germany - Unvaccinated Bayern Munich star Joshua Kimmich is one of five players in Germany's national football squad having to quarantine after one tested positive for coronavirus, the German federation (DFB) said on Tuesday.

The infected player, Niklas Suele, is fully vaccinated and currently asymptomatic, added the DFB.

Fellow Bayern teammates Kimmich, Serge Gnabry and Jamal Musiala as well as Karim Adeyemi of RB Salzburg, have been asked to isolate because they are close contacts of his, even though they have tested negative, DFB chief director Bierhoff said.

"This news, coming so close



Joshua Kimmich (AFP)

before the final World Cup qualifiers, is bitter for the coaching team as well as for Die Mannschaft," said Bierhoff.

The latest high profile case comes as Germany is fighting a surge in new infections, with its seven-day COVID-19 rate striking a new record on Tuesday.

AFP

Ogbonna faces long lay-off after knee injury



Angelo Ogbonna (AFP)

London, UK - West Ham defender Angelo Ogbonna will miss a significant part of the season after picking up a serious knee injury in his side's 3-2 win against Liverpool.

Sunday's victory lifted the Hammers above Jurgen Klopp's side into third place in the Premier League table but the buoyant mood has been tempered by an anterior cruciate ligament injury for the 33-year-old player.

"After being substituted following a separate incident that led to him suffering a cut above his eye, Angelo felt some discomfort in his right knee so we scanned him to ascertain the extent of the injury," said West Ham's head of medical Richard Collinge. "That scan has shown up some damage to the anterior cruciate ligament. Angelo will see another specialist this week and we will then have a clearer picture around his timeline of recovery."

AFP

PURSHOTTAM KANJI EXCHANGE

Transfer US Dollar to China
for your
Trade & Personal Transaction

Commission OMR 3.5/-

99101314, 99849289 91787829
customersupport@pkexchange.net
www.pkexchange.com

FREE CLASSIFIED LISTING

Muscat Daily now offers free classified listings for individuals in the following categories:
Situations Wanted/Accommodation Wanted or Available/Sale of Household Items/ Car for Sale or Wanted/Matrimonial Alliances (Word limit is 35)
Please email your listing to dailyclassifieds@apexmedia.co.om or call 99104346

The way you live
will be the way we innovate

MUSCAT
97693496, 96742452
Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

SALALAH
79011363

49er, 49er FX Asian Championships end

2021 ASIAN 49ER AND 49ER FX CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The four-day long 2021 Asian 49er and 49er FX Championships drew to an end on Tuesday with Umpierre Herman and Diz Fernando of Uruguay and Odile Van Aanholt and Elise de Eujter of the Netherlands winning the race in the 49er and 49er FX classes respectively.

The race for medals entered into the final day of the championships with several crews in contention in both classes.

As the race closed, Molly Highfield and Sandi Choi of Hong Kong came second, while Lara Granier and Amelie Riou of France ended in the third position in the 49er FX class.

Andrew Mollerus and Ian MacDiarmid of the US ended behind Uruguay to come second. Denmark's Fredrik Rask and Jacob Precht came third in the 49er class.

The Day 2 of the competition on Sunday saw Molly Highfield and Sandi Choi of Hong Kong edging ahead of India's Harshita Tomar and Sweta Shervegar in the 49er FX class.

In the overall standings till that day, Odile Van Aanholt and Elise de Eujter of the Netherlands continued to lead, holding a narrow advantage over Lara Granier and Amelie Riou of France. Laura Schoefegger and Lina Forthofer from Austria and Mathilde Lounadina and Marne Riou of France were tied in fourth place.

In the 49er class, Akira Sakai and Russell Awylworth from Hong Kong was ahead of K C Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar of India and the Omani crews of Musab al Hadi and Walid al Kindi, and Ahmed al Hasani and Abdulrahman al Mashari.

Danish pair was leading overall, ahead of Great Britain's James Peters and Fynn Skeritt till Sunday, but ended in the third on the final day.

Rashid al Kindi, Director of Sailing at Oman Sail, said, "Today served as a reminder of

how sailing in Asia has progressed and how much talent is coming through the national sailing programmes."

"We are very pleased with how the tournament has been managed and it has been great to welcome sailors back to Oman. We are in the middle of a very busy winter season and look forward to seeing the gains made during this competition show in the rankings at the 49er and 49er FX World Championships next week."

The 2021 Asian 49er and 49er FX Championships attracted fleet of 50 across both classes, representing countries from Asia competing for the title and guest sailors around the world training in a competitive environment.

The event was supported by a line-up of organisations includ-

We are very pleased with how the tournament has been managed and it has been great to welcome sailors back to Oman

RASHID AL KINDI



Oman Cricket to host women series against UK's Wanstead in January

Muscat - Oman Cricket will be hosting a bilateral series against Wanstead Cricket Club from Britain for the women squad in January next year.

The T20 format of the series will be of 30 overs and will be held from January 16 to January 21 next year at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground, Muscat.

According to a press release issued by Oman Cricket, the selection process for the 18-member squad for the series will begin

next week at the Oman Cricket Academy in the Al Amerat neighbourhood of Muscat.

The team will be selected through a process spread over Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday next week, between 4.00pm and 6.00pm at the academy, the release stated.

"It is an excellent opportunity for talents in Oman to participate in the selection process," Vaishali Jesrani, women's co-Ordinator, Oman Cricket, said,

while requesting candidates to participate in the selection process as per the given date and time.

"The Bilateral series holds the potential to set a stage for budding cricketers to trust their skill and gain recognition among the dignitaries present on the Board," she added.

Oman Cricket was formed in 1979 with Kanaksi G Khimji as the president and the other founder members.

The first Patron in Chief was the Late H H Sayyid Abbas bin Faisal.

Oman is currently the 38th associate member of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and has International Status in Twenty20 from 2015-2017.

Oman became an affiliate member of the ICC and associate members of the ACC in 2000 at the ICC Annual Conference, held in Melbourne, Australia in June 2014.



REIGNITE YOUR LOVE FOR BARBEQUE WITH A'SAFFA



A name you can trust!

51ST NATIONAL DAY OFFERS



WRANGLER SPORT 2 DOOR
STARTING FROM RO 196
PER MONTH

WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT 4 DOOR
STARTING FROM RO 218
PER MONTH

ADDITIONAL CASH GIFT OF RO 501 FOR THE FIRST 51 CUSTOMERS IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER!

FIRST YEAR
INSURANCE & REGISTRATION

5YRS
WARRANTY & ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

FREE
FUEL WORTH **501** LITRES

3YRS
/60,000 KMS SERVICE PACKAGE

*Offer valid from 1st November to 31st December. Vehicle image shown is for illustrative purposes only and accessories shown might not be part of the standard model.
Offer on selected models of Wrangler Only.

BOOK NOW

Vehicle image shown is for illustrative purposes only and accessories shown might not be part of the standard model.
©2021 FCA US LLC. All Rights Reserved. Jeep® is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC.

Jeep
THERE'S ONLY ONE

dhofar ظفار
AUTOMOTIVE للسيارات

Wattayah, Athaiba, Sohar, Nizwa, Salalah
For corporate enquiries | For more information **245 005 30** | info@da-oman.com
www.dhofarautomotive.com



SURF&TURF

THURSDAYS

It's all about Meat and Seafood Live Stations
Taybat Restaurant | 6.30PM to 10.30PM

OMR 18.50++



For reservations, dial +968 79495989 or +968 22302351

Grand Millennium Muscat



NISSAN X-TERRA

BOND WHEREVER YOU GO



EMI
STARTING
FROM OMR **206***

2.5L ENGINE, 4WD, 7-SPEED AT, 7 SEATER



INTELLIGENT
FORWARD COLLISION WARNING



9" DISPLAY SCREEN
WITH 8 BOSE® SPEAKERS



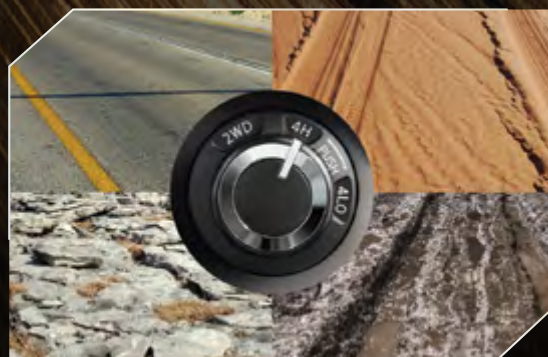
11" REAR FOLDABLE HD SCREEN



THEATRE LAYOUT



INTELLIGENT AROUND VIEW MONITOR
WITH MOVING OBJECT DETECTION



SHIFT ON-THE-FLY 4X4



INTELLIGENT
SMART REAR VIEW MIRROR



INTELLIGENT
BLIND SPOT INTERVENTION

[FOR DETAILS CLICK HERE](#)



**Suhail Bahwan
Automobiles LLC**

 **TOLL FREE
800 50011**

*EMI mentioned is calculated on the price of the base model variant with 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals.